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The Free Will Baptist

January 1997

As we begin the New Year, we pray, "Peace for all."



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January • Volume 114 • Number 1

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NEXT MONTH

February is Christian Education Month

January is Retirement Ministry Month

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist.* The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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January is Retirement Ministry Month



There are many reasons to support a ministry. One may consider supporting on the basis of need and surely the needs are great. One may consider supporting on the basis of personal interest, and Original Free Will Baptists have several ministries to attract a person's interest. There are perhaps others reasons as well, but one of the most compelling reasons to give to Christian ministry is because Christ gave Himself for the cause of salvation. Another is because we need to be involved in the work of Christian ministry; even when we cannot be personally doing a specific task, it helps us keep our priorities in order.

The Christmas season is just past, and we spent a great deal of time and money on holiday celebration. The real question before us now is whether we missed the true goal of Christian Love. The call to Christian ministry (Christian service) is one that people silence at their own peril. Often it would do persons good to examine their motives. At a time when New Year's resolutions are popular, would it also be prudent to ask if we are taking our responsibilities as seriously as we took our celebrations?

Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry is involved in taking a careful look at the needs of the senior citizens in our churches. We have already discovered that the opportunities go far beyond merely providing housing as we are also adding services. Yet, it must not be forgotten that there are still people among our own that do need housing-help. Since September 1, 1996, your Retirement Ministry has become aware of four people who need housing assistance in addition to the three already in our program. It is unfortunate that our program does not have the resources to help these four.

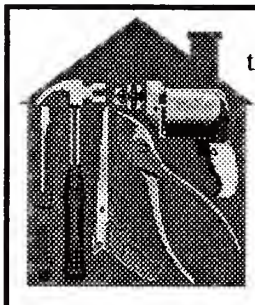
If there are four that are known, how many may be unknown? What other needs are not being properly addressed? The task grows with each passing hour. Please look into your soul and see if you can help!

Telephone: (919) 746-4963.

One of the ways that each church can help is to invite the Executive Director to visit with a program about the Retirement Ministry, sharing its program and its needs. For many years the Executive Director was part-time and could not visit churches on Sunday mornings, but that is no longer the case. Another, is to contact the office about arranging a workshop or workshops to help inform our people about the resources that are available to aid in developing programs for retired persons.

One thing we must not allow to happen is for our retired folk to be put on the shelf and forgotten. These are our parents. They reared us and now have much to offer our community of faith if we can develop ways of letting them serve. The greatest resource of all societies is its people, and we have a group who have survived; why do we not let them help others to survive?

Moreover, when they do come to the status of needing our help, we must remember who ministered to us when we were little and helpless.



Recently we became aware that the duplex apartment building occupied by Mrs. Rose Bowen and Miss Kaye Jones was seriously in need of repair because of termite and rot damage to the sills and floor joists. The area under the house is wet and it appears to remain wet all the time. These problems must be attended to very soon or even bigger problems will occur. We are in the process of getting cost-estimates on repairs, but we already know that it will be several thousand dollars. If you or your church can help, it will be greatly appreciated. We will let you know more as soon as we have the information.

CHILDREN'S HOME

The last quarterly board meeting was held on November 21, 1996, at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The Board of Directors welcomed Mrs. Ann Grubbs, the newest member of the Board. Ann Grubbs is a member of Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church. The following board members have succeeded themselves to serve another term: Edward Brock of Marlboro Free Will Baptist Church, and David Cahoon of Gum Neck Free Will Baptist Church.

Mr. Franklin Vester was presented a certificate of appreciation for his service to the Children's Home. Mr. Vester has served twelve years on the Board of Directors. He was serving in the capacity of Vice-President at the end of his tenure. He is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson.

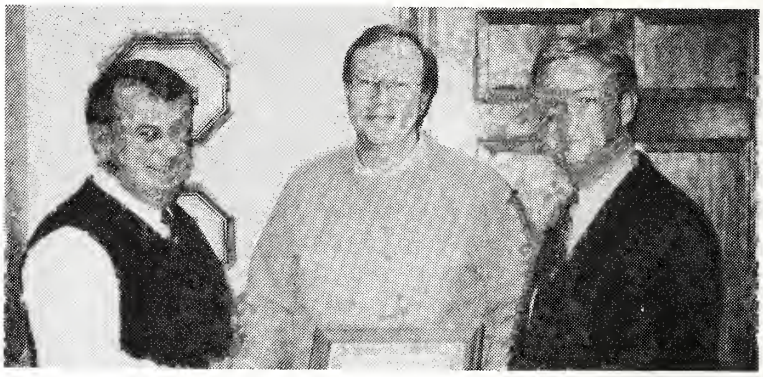
Dr. Bobby Taylor and Board President, Doug Skinner, unveiled a framed listing of board membership to the Board and hung it in the conference room. This list contains some eighty names of ministers, business people, and lay persons who have served on the Children's Home Board. The list dates back to 1915 when the first resolution was made to begin a child care ministry. There is a listing of Superintendents/Executive Directors and a framed mission statement that hangs in the office building.

Children's Home Board

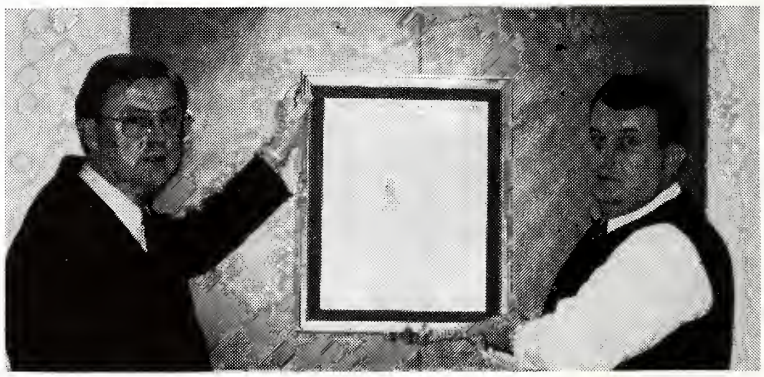
Rev. Doug Skinner, President
Donnie Tyndall, Vice-President
Elizabeth Brinchek, Secretary
David Cahoon, Assistant Secretary
Rev. Phillip Boykin
Hazel Brown
William Hawkins
Michael McLamb
Jerry Smith
Edward Brock
Rev. Garland Suggs
Ann Grubbs



New Board Member Ann Grubbs with David Cahoon and Edward Brock.



Mr. Franklin Vester presented with certificate of service.



Doug Skinner and Bobby Taylor hang Board membership listing.

Thank You!

The children and staff would like to thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the 1996 Christmas season. Your commitment to provide for our children through Christmas Sponsorships and our Christmas campaign has been greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless and reward you greatly for your service to our children. Thanks again and we wish for each of you a great new year.

Mark This Date On Your Calendar

Sunday, March 9, 1997

And Plan To Attend The

Annual World Missions Conference

Sponsored by the
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Theme: **The Fruit of the Gospel and the Unfinished Task**

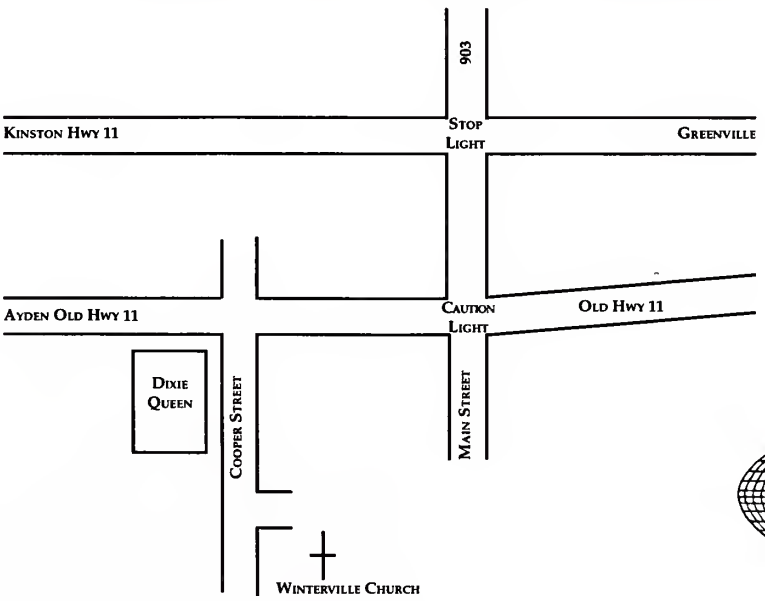
Place: Winterville Free Will Baptist Church
(915 E. Cooper Street, Winterville, NC)

Time:

5:00 PM	Opening Service
6:00 PM	Light snack provided with the generous help of the host church.
7:00 PM	Closing Service
	Special Music by host church

Speaker: The Rev. Harold Stevens
Harold served with African Evangelical Fellowship in South Africa for many years. He is presently serving with "Harvesters." He is an excellent speaker and authority on world missions. You will be blessed by attending.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND
AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.
PRAY DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE.



BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
P .O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513–0039
Phone: 919–746–4963

Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

Sunday, March 23, 1997

Theme: The Fruit of the Gospel and the Unfinished Task

Colossians 1:3–6; Mark 16:15

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions reminds us of the fruit we have seen on our fields, but also helps us to see the unfinished task. Millions still live in darkness, waiting for the Light.

Goal 1997: A total of $125,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can be reached easily if we but look to the fields, to the unfinished task and trust the Lord in prayer for His supply.

The evangelization of the world is the most important task the Lord assigned to the Church. When the Church places this tasl first, the heart of God rejoices and the Church flourishes.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

Call in your special offering between **1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial (919) 746–4963**. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will show your joy in the fruit and determination to finish the task.

A CHEERFUL GIVER IS BLESSED OF GOD.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

MARCH 23, 1997

The fruit of prayer is revival.
The impact of revival is the vision and energy to complete the unfinished task.

Earnest prayer is essential for revival, for prayer reveals our true desire.

Will Free Will Baptists experience revival? Yes! When? When we desire with our whole heart and fervently unite in concerted prayer for revival, IT WILL COME!

WILL IT BE ON MARCH 23, 1997? YOU HAVE THE ANSWER.

Prayer Goal March 23, 1997: All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival.

LET US PRAY!

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
P .O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513–0039
Phone: 919–746–4963

DISCOVERIES

by William van der Plas

God's children always hope for the best to others and God's servants never give up to find an opportunity to witness the Glory of God to others. One of our best friends, let us name her Donna, was very concerned about her son-in-law. We never were able to witness to her openly, because of mutual circumstances. Her son-in-law, about 30 years old, fell badly on his head and was taken into intensive care. He was in a deep coma. Donna reacted to us: "Only a miracle can bring this man back to us; the doctors don't give much hope."

After 12 days of sorrows the young man uttered some words with great difficulties. The medicaments he needed were very expensive and had to be paid for by Donna. Therefore we asked her and her husband by letter to allow us to help them in their needs by means of a love-gift for the medicaments. I wrote to them also: "We pray daily for all of you and for the healing of your son-in-law. May God bless the treatments which he receives and give PEACE to all of you." While she was reading the letter, she got tears in her eyes because the doctors were still not optimistic about the situation.

Some weeks later Donna testified: "Surely there is God who cares for people. He gave life to my son-in-law. He gives him back to my daughter, to her two little boys, and to all of us. Slava na Boga vinagi; which means Praise the Lord for always."

Before, she refused to speak about God and now she desires to have a Bible, which I promised her. Please pray for Donna and her family so that they may experience the full salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Three times in the last half year it happened that there were Moslem visitors in the home of Janan at the time that we have our weekly Bible-study and prayer meeting. At the end of these meetings they all three reacted in the same way: "These Bible words and prayers bring warmth and PEACE to my heart, it is very good."

They have seen a glimpse of the Light of Jesus. They don't have the courage to come again and to participate, because they will lose their social contacts with all their relatives and most of their friends. However, they discovered that there is Peace in the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Pray with us that they will make up their minds to choose for the Lord of Life.

One of the best teachings about hell or Abyss is written by Luke in Chapter 8, Verses 27–34.

The demon possessed man named himself "Legion" because he was possessed by so many demons, which were able to drive 2000 swines in such craziness of self-destruction that they all drowned in the lake. What a power of Evil!

The possessed man begged Jesus: "Don't torture me." The demons begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into hell or Abyss. What does that teach us? Even the evil spirits or demons are afraid for the hatred and evil of hell, for the cruel presence of Satan. For them the existence on earth is better than to be in the place where they belong to be.

This story proves us how urgently we need to proclaim the Kingdom of Light and Life to all people who live in darkness. We have received the opportunities to carry out the message of Salvation; the Glory of the Crucified and Risen Lord.

JESUS CHRIST LEARNING CENTER • OLD BUNCAG, PALAWAN

by Aida M. Sabandal

The Rev. Fidel Presto was assigned to the Buncag Free Will Baptist Church in 1995. He planned to start a kindergarten center in this area. When he told me about his plan and asked me to lead the kindergarten, I responded, "That's good," but deep inside I told myself that it would not succeed because there is a day care center very near this church. Days passed and April 1996 came. I had to decide whether to accept the offer or not. I prayed to the Lord that His will be done. He assured me that it was His time to start the kindergarten. We started enrollment in May and there are twenty nine pupils enrolled.



These children are desirous to learn despite the difficulties encountered by their parents. They are now learning much through the Jesus Christ Learning Center. Thank God for the dedication of the Rev. Fidel Presto and his family.

I would like to ask your support through prayer so that we can reach our goal to motivate the children for the preservation of our Christian values.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Sabinas, Mexico
Efrain Aguero, Pastor



The Good Shepherd Free Will Baptist Church is filled with joy. The brethren from North Carolina were there in July to dedicate the church. The presence of our brothers and sisters from North Carolina has motivated and opened up the work in this place. The children's department has grown tremendously, so that there are a large number of young people in attendance. The Biblical program for these children and young people is geared towards their knowing Jesus as their personal Saviour.

The Short-Term Teams have motivated the churches, as they have learned to use the methods and materials taught by the teams. At the same time, the churches are using the materials that Sister Sandra Jones left here to be utilized for that purpose.

The group of children seen in this picture are the recipients of these materials. We thank the Lord for the children who respond to this program and pray that they will be saved, as well as their parents with whom we are also working.

The Good Shepherd Church thanks the brethren of North Carolina for their vision of outreach in this part of the world.

CHURCH FINANCE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP HOLDERS TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 11, 1997

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place: **The First FWB Church of Greenville**
Greenville, North Carolina

Date: **February 11, 1997**

Time: **10:30 AM**

By order of the Board of Directors,
William D. Thigpen, Secretary

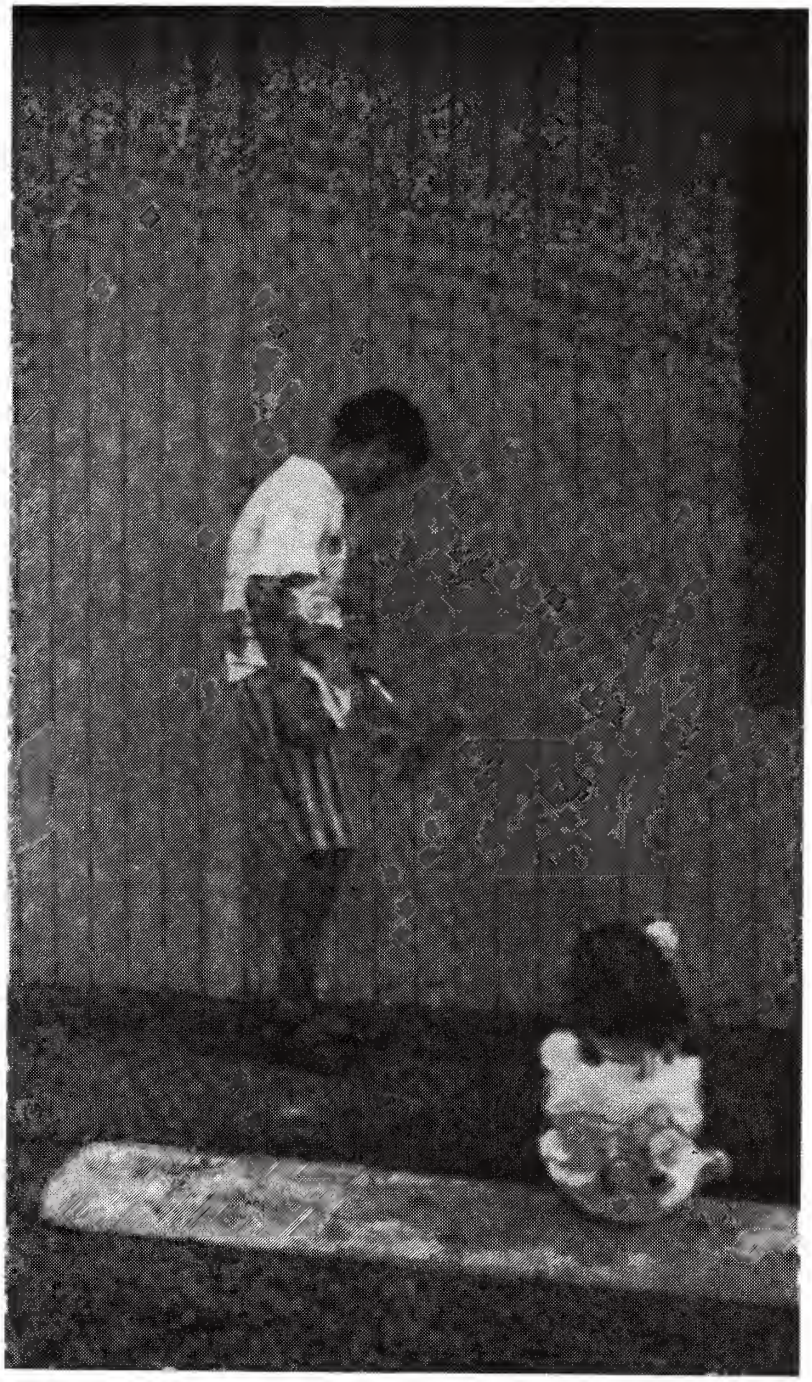
MINISTERS'S PROGRAM

MINISTER'S ANNUAL TAX SEMINAR
FEBRUARY 13, 1997
HOLIDAY INN, KINSTON,
NORTH CAROLINA
9:00 AM

The Minister's Program is pleased to present the Annual Tax and Planning Seminar for Ministers on February 13, 1997. This is the place to come and learn what changes have taken place in the tax code over the past year and to have your questions answered by a tax professional.

The meeting will begin with coffee and danish at 9:00 AM, and the seminar will begin at 9:30 AM. The cost of the seminar is $5.00 and that includes all materials and a buffet lunch. Be on the lookout for your registration in the mail.

How long have you waited for something like this?



Take advantage of helping people exclusively for Original Free Will Baptists

You always wanted to help with home-front missions. So why not apply today to participate in our TOUCHING LIVES CORPS?

Who can participate?

- College students, Single Adults, Married Couples, Senior Citizens, and Youth Groups.
- Persons who desire to do Home Mission endeavors for a weekend, a week, or a month.
- Persons who are willing to be responsible for raising their own financial support for a Home Mission "enterprise."

For more information call or write
(919) 746–4963
Home Missions and Evangelism
Post Office Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513.

Apply now to help in the summer of 1997.



Left to Right: Joe Yoke, Director of Relations for BSA; Mrs. Mary Dudley; the Rev. David C. Hansley, Executive Director for Home Missions and Evangelism.

"Duty to God" Awarded

Mrs. Mary Dudley received the "DUTY TO GOD" award during the annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptist at its 1996 sitting.

The award recognized Mrs. Dudley, Director of Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry and Field-Based Educator and Coordinator for the Duplin County School System of North Carolina, for her service to youth and adults for more than 36 years. The citation reads:

Duty To God
This Award Presented To
Mary Dudley
By
Commission On Scouting
For
Original Free Will Baptists

In Recognition of Service and Devotion
to those ideals and principles of the
Boy Scouts of America
and your Christian faith.

In a letter from Dr. Tommy Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Duplin County Schools, Mrs. Dudley was described as "a person exemplifying the Christian who has been truly 'called' into the profession. She has taught and inspired hundreds of children over her thirty plus years in teaching. I have witnessed her magic firsthand as she has taught my own children. They sensed her uniqueness and profited from her understanding, compassion, and that special touch.

Mrs. Dudley now has the opportunity to impact approximately eighty beginning and second year teachers as they embark on their own careers in education. She still wields a 'special touch' with these adult learners. They too sense her uniqueness and special abilities. They too feel the dedication and compassion with which she approaches her job and them as individuals. Yet, for all the responsibility entrusted her, Mrs. Dudley approaches each day with calm assurance and dignity. She brings a love of learning, a love of children, and a love of God with her each day. What greater tribute can be paid than to say that she truly 'walks with God.'"

The Scouting Commission for Original Free Will Baptists is proud to present the first ever "Duty To God" award.

Any church, Sunday school, Auxiliary, or youth group can nominate your pastor, youth leader, or other lay leader for this most prestigious award for services rendered to youth and/or adults.

For more information, please contact your Scouting Commission for Original Free Will Baptists, Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513 or call (919) 746–4963 or fax (919) 746–8913.

News **From...**

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

DR. PELT SPEAKS AT FOUNDERS DAY

Mount Olive College celebrated 45 years of Christian higher education at its Founders Day celebration on Tuesday, November 26.

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, officiated in a service that included Scripture reading, a special Founders Day prayer, music, an address, and the presentation of service certificates.

Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, the college's director of church support and a Mount Olive graduate, read Psalm 95:1–7. She was followed by the Rev. E. Ray Wells, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, who led a congregation of students, staff, faculty, alumni, and trustees in the Founders Day prayer. The Convention chartered the college on November 27, 1951.

After the affirmation of faith, the Mount Olive College Choir, directed by Dr. Alan Armstrong, sang Hayden's *The Heavens Are Telling*.

Dr. Michael Pelt, professor of religion at Mount Olive from 1957 to 1994, and now professor emeritus, spoke of the founding fathers' vision and highlighted milestones in the college's journey to the present.

Dr. Byrd then honored four trustees and four employees for service to the college. Among the trustees honored were: the Rev. DeWayne Eakes, Mr. W. C. Martin, Jr., Mr. Wendell H. Murphy, and Mrs. Jane T. Tripp.

Employees who were honored were: Ms. Kay S. Fail, secretary for the office of Student Development; Mr. Leland E. Howell, Buildings and Grounds; Ms. Mary S. Outlaw, Food Services; and Ms. Judy C. Tyndall, controller in the college's Business Office.

Following the singing of the College's *alma mater*, the Rev. Jerry Corbett, vice-president of the students' theological fellowship, offered the benediction. Mr. Mark Gourley was organist for the service.

Speaking to approximately 350 people in Rodgers Chapel, Pelt said, "We pause to remember those whose vision and dedication made possible the establishment of this college...we honor their visions, their labors, and their sacrifices."

Pelt referred to a little-known predecessor to the present college that was established at the turn of the century and was forced to close its doors in 1929. He said that this experience shook the faith of many and accounted for less than enthusiastic support from some to establish a junior college in 1951.

He talked of the college's beginning at Cragmont in 1952 with 12 students, and its relocation in 1953 to an abandoned public school building in Mount Olive.

"The 1954–55 school year began with 22 students," Pelt recounted, with gifts of $33,000 and contributions of food, services and materials, and operating expenses totaling more than $61,000.

Pelt chronicled events in the college's history telling of key people's contributions, growth in enrollment, and the construction of buildings on the new campus into the physical plant we see today.

"The passage has never been smooth sailing," Pelt said. Despite the stormy weather at times, he said that "we have abundant reasons to be thankful."

Concluding, Pelt said that the vision was not yet complete.

"We are not simply building an institution," he said. "Our primary mission today, as in the past, is to provide quality education for students in a community of learning made up of persons committed to Christian truth and values that transcend and yet permeate our ordinary life experiences."

"If we do our work well, then what was begun in 1951, will continue and will flourish for many, many years to come," he said.

JANUARY 1997 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Monday, January 13	**Registration/Verification/Orientation, 8:30 AM, Henderson Building**
Tuesday, January 14	**Classes begin**
Tuesday, January 14	**Film Series — *Dr. Zhivago*, 7:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**
Monday, January 20	**Campus Visitation Day 9:15 AM, Check-in begins, College Hall**
Monday, January 20	**Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Service 7:30 PM, Rodgers Chapel**
Sunday, January 26	**U.S. Air Force Ensemble Concert 2:00 PM, College Hall**

Byrd Makes Key Appointments

Dr. J. William Byrd recently announced three appointments to key administrative positions at Mount Olive College, Dr. Barbara R. Kornegay has been named as Vice-President for Enrollment. Mrs. Dianne B. Riley will become Director of Alumni Affairs. Mr. Timothy E. Woodard will take over as Director of Admissions. The appointments are effective January 1, 1997.

Byrd said that the appointments position the College to serve growing and more diverse enrollment requirements and a corresponding increase in almuni as a result of expanding programs at the College's four locations.

Dr. Kornegay returns to the Mount Olive College staff, having served in a variety of positions beginning in 1984 as Director of Planning and running to 1993. She departed as Vice-President for Support Services and moved to the O'Berry Center in Goldsboro as its Personnel Manager. Even while at O'Berry, Kornegay continued as adjunct professor, teaching part-time.

Assuming the duties of a newly defined position, Vice President for Enrollment, Dr. Kornegay will be responsible for admissions for all programs, including recruiting, marketing, retention, and financial aid.

Dr. Kornegay received her bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and her master's and doctorate in adult education from North Carolina State University. She has been active in many professional and civic organizations. Among them, she was a founder and now serves as executive director of the Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble.

Dr. Kornegay is married to Mr. George R. Kornegay, Jr. Her daughter is Kathryn R. Sessoms. The family belongs to the First Methodist Church in Mount Olive.

After devoting 23 years to the College's Office of Admissions, and 13 years as its Director, Mrs. Dianne Riley will get a new view from the Administration Building as she takes on the duties of the College's Director of Alumni Affairs.

A graduate of Mount Olive in 1967, Riley came on staff as an Admissions Counselor in 1973 carrying the title of Associate Director for 10 years, and then Director. In addition to her recruiting duties, she has also served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion, teaching religious education courses. Having had a personal hand in recruiting most students for the last 23 years, Riley was the logical choice to be Alumni Director, according to Byrd.

In addition to an associate degree from Mount Olive, Riley holds a bachelor's degree from Atlantic Christian College, now Barton, and a master's in religious education from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to joining the College's recruiting team, she was an elementary school teacher for four years.

For all of her professional life, Mrs. Riley has been involved in many church activities and educational organizations. Among them, she was appointed by Gov. Hunt to serve a second term on the North Carolina Internship Council.

She is married to Mr. Dennis G. Riley. Mrs. Riley is a member of Saint Mary's FWB Church in New Bern.

Mr. Tim Woodard returns to Mount Olive College to take over the duties of Director of Admissions. Like Kornegay and Riley, Woodard has a history with the College.

He graduated from Mount Olive College in 1987, receiving a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He then signed on as an Admissions Counselor and recruited for the College for six years until 1993. During part of this time, he also served as golf coach from 1989 to 1992.

Woodard is returning to his alma mater from Johnston Community College where he has been an admissions representative and coach of the college's golf team.

With 10 years experience in college recruiting in eastern North Carolina, Woodard knows the territory and has an established network of contacts in high schools throughout the region, Byrd said.

Woodard resides in Princeton with his wife, Lydia, and their two children. He is a deacon at the Rains Cross Roads FWB Church in Kenly.

"I am delighted that Barbara Kornegay, Dianne Riley, and Tim Woodard have agreed to take their respective positions," Byrd said. "Mount Olive College is not the same institution it was five years ago. We are moving to new levels, and our staffing, strategies, and systems have to grow and change to better serve the College and our constituencies. The individuals have the credentials, experience and energy to help us do this."

The Seventh Annual

Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture

Theme: Reaching and Teaching People In the 21st Century



Guest Lecturer: Dr. Bruce P. Powers
Associate Dean,
Campbell University Divinity School

Tuesday • February 25 • 9:30 AM
Rodgers Chapel • Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Schedule of Events:

Registration (no fee)	9:00 AM
Lecture One: *Conversion and Christian Growth*	9:30 AM
Break and Refreshments	10:30 AM
Worship Service, *"Do You Love Me?"* (John 21:15–17)	11:00 AM
Luncheon ($7.00) and Dialogue In the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center	12:00 NOON
Lecture Two: *Developing Disciples*	1:30 PM

About the Vivian B. Harrison Lecture...

The Vivian B. Harrison Lecture was established by the Reverend Frank R. Harrison in memory of his wife. The purpose of the lecture is to provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and lay persons of eastern North Carolina.

Mrs. Harrison was a graduate of Mount Olive College and Barton College, where she earned a B.S. degree in elementary education. She taught public school in North Carolina for 17 years before retiring in 1986 due to illness. She was a member of Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County and was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Beamon and the late Mr. Charlie T. Beamon of Walstonburg, North Carolina.

The Reverend Frank Harrison is a graduate of Mount Olive College, Barton College, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He had completed two years of post-graduate studies in pastoral care and counseling at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. Mr. Harrison has served as Campus Minister at Mount Olive College since 1971 and teaches courses in practical theology.

About the Harrison Lecturer...

Dr. Bruce P. Powers is the Associate Dean and Langston Professor of Christian Education at the newly established Campbell University Divinity School in Buies Creek, North Carolina. At Campbell, he teaches courses in leadership, Christian education, and church renewal. Prior to coming to Campbell, Dr. Powers was professor of Christian Education at the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina and Director of the Church Program Training Centers for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dr. Powers earned his doctorate and master's degrees from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. A noted author and editor, some of his more significant works include *Church Administration Handbook, Christian Education Handbook: Resources for the 21st Century,* and *Growth Faith.* An outstanding lecturer, he is frequently called upon as a conference leader.

For further information contact, Dr. K. David Hines, Chairman, Department of Religion, Mount Olive College, 919–658–2502.

PREPARING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

The staff at the Free Will Baptist Press is always ready to help you get your news items and articles published. Following are some tips for making the process easier.

1. Type all copy. Use 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper; smaller paper can get lost or misplaced. Do not strike over letters, and make all erasures as neat as possible. Be sure that the type is clear.

2. Keep a copy of all material typed. This will avoid the possibility of having to redo the item in case of loss. Please include your phone number so the staff may call if there are questions about your copy.

3. Indicate the title of the article approximately two inches down from the top of page one. Leave an inch and a half at the top of each succeeding page; and for convenience of editing, please number succeeding pages. Type on one side of paper only.

4. Leave a margin of at least an inch on both sides of the page.

5. Never write perpendicularly in the margin.

6. Write no more than one article on a sheet.

7. Do not divide a word between pages. Avoid dividing words between lines as much as possible.

8. Clip pages together, using paper clips. Do not staple pages.

9. Read, reread, and correct your own copy before sending it.

10. If words, phrases, or sentences are of particular importance to the point of needing to be emphasized, indicate such by underlining or bold print.

11. Observe and practice the proper rules of grammar and punctuation.

12. Prepare your articles and reports as far in advance as possible so as not to delay their publication. All articles for publication should be in no later than twenty days in advance. For example, articles for publication in the March issue should be in the hands of the editor by February 10. Late copy delays the publication and causes problems on all fronts. (Holidays, such as Christmas, cause earlier deadlines.) Typically, items received after the 10th cannot be included in an issue.

13. Remember that all items to be published must be submitted in typed form. Items should not be hand written or phoned in.

14. Churches and pastors wishing to announce their availability should note that this information is run as space permits. It should also be noted that there is absolutely no way anyone but the minister can relate his or her availability.

15. It should always be remembered that the editor makes the final decision as to whether or not something is deemed worthy of printing.

16. If you are sending in an article that is camera ready, it must also be in by the 10th of the month. Your margins must be 1/2 inch on the top and the sides, 3/4 inch on the bottom. Your copy needs to be justified and free of any spelling or grammar errors. If your copy contains errors, it will be reset. Also, the copy we receive needs to be on white paper, and very clear (if at all possible from a laser printer). Do not fold the copy in any way; mail in an 9 x 12 inch envelope with cardboard to keep the copy from being bent in mailing.

17. Send articles to the following address: Attention: Editor, Free Will Baptist Press, Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513–0159.

The Bible and Bookstores
of Ayden, Kinston, Wilson,
and New Bern
would like to thank all who made our first
Christmas Open House
a Huge Success!
We look forward to serving your needs
throughout the coming New Year!
Lexine Davis
Bookstore Coordinator

Quarterly Yoke Letter

December 1996
228 College Avenue • Richmond, IN 47374 • 317–983–1656

Dear Friends,

I didn't recognize him at first. He was bent over, head down, and eyes fixed on each short step he was taking. "Johnnie, is that you?" I had not seen Johnnie since last October when he had done some yard work for me. This was mid-January. Recognizing my voice, he stopped to look up, and as our eyes met his woundedness became fully exposed. I could hardly bear to look him in the eye. "Johnnie, are you all right?" "Oh, James, I have been put through the medical ringer." Each word was said haltingly and painfully. "Since I saw you last I have had a serious heart attack. The doctor has told me that the damage is so great that I can never mow another lawn."

Devastating news for a man who loved yard work. For Johnnie it was more than just a job, it was a *passion.* I have never known a person who knew more about different types of lawn mowers and the various kinds of grass than Johnnie. From the moment I would pick him up (he didn't drive) until the time we reached my home on the other side of town, he would recite a litany of grass and mowers. He lived for the spring and summer when he could be outdoors.

"I can never mow another lawn." The words just hung there between us as he talked about how he had almost died and his new set of limitations. I listened for about ten minutes, hugged him, and told him I would stay in touch. He turned and continued his slow and painful walk to wherever he was going. I turned and went about my business. But he has stayed on my mind and heart.

Johnnie is a parable for many in our time. Head down, bent over, and eyes fixed on each short step, we reluctantly trudge through the patterns of our well-worn lives, devoid of passion and meaning. What is life without a sense of meaning and a passion which gives it vitality? *Mere existence.*

At our best, human beings *want* more than mere existence and *need* more than mere existence. We are meaning-seeking, social creatures. In a time of accelerated change, like we are in now, there is a corresponding need to clarify meaning *and* to know that we are not alone. In this dual quest *passion* can be an important vehicle in driving the search. A passionate vitality for all that life could mean helps to push us beyond the worn-out patterns and dead-ends of the past, and moves us to venture into new spiritual territory. *Risk* is a part of such passion, and as William James has written, "It is only by risking our persons from one hour to another that we live at all."

My soul has made a start on finding the *passion* it seeks when I have connected with others in the creation of *Spiritual Friendships.* To take that risk and openly share a spiritual kinship with another person places one in a vulnerable position. And yet this vulnerability is worth the risk if it keeps the passion for life ever vibrant, and the meaning of such life ever before us. Our souls yearn for more than physical presence or humorous anecdotes. We need more than a lunch partner or a colleague who will never share more than amusing political or social commentary. We want a friendship that is without pretense, and without the fear of experiencing deep emotion. This is a friendship centered in a spiritual union of souls wherein nothing is considered too personal, too sacred, too outrageous, or too emotionally disturbing to be shared together. To share our stories with one or two others in an intimate, vulnerable way, is to begin the process of recovering passion.

Second, we are helped in our recovery of passion when we *seek ourselves beyond ourselves.* To go beyond our normal patterns and cultural context, interacting with people outside of our usual circle of operation, can be a most rewarding experience of growth. George MacLeod, founder of the Iona Fellowship, has written some poignant words reminding us of the cultural context in which Jesus was crucified:

"I simply argue that the cross should be raised at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town's garbage heap; at the crossroad, so cosmopolitan they had to write his title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek...at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died for. And that is what he died about. That is where Christians ought to be and what Christians ought to be about" (*Quaker Life*, March, 1991).

For those of us who have grown up within the culture of the Christian faith, and who have lived out this faith within the confines of a particular denomination, the cosmopolitan "marketplace" can be a scary environment. To interact with others in such a place, beyond the safety of the stained glass windows, is an adventure in which few of us Christian types feel comfortable. The passion recovering rewards, however, will bless us immensely.

(Used by permission of *Quarterly Yoke Letter*)

James R. Newby

January

Is Retirement Ministry Month

SUN	MON	TUE	
29	**30**	**31**	**1** FWB Pre M Happ
5	**6** Ministry Director's Meeting	**7**	**8**
12	**13** ❃ Mount Olive College Registration, Henderson Building, 8:30 AM	**14** ❃ Mount Olive College Classes Begin	**15**
19	**20**	**21** Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00 AM ❃ Opening Convocation at Mount Olive College, 11:00 AM	**22**
26	**27**	**28**	**29**

G E N D

ious/following month

ent month

○ Sunday School
▲ Cragmont Assembly
● Foreign Missions
✚ FWB Convention News
✢ FWB Press Deadline
▼ Home Missions
◆ Layman's League
❀ Mount Olive College
★ Conference Meeting
■ Vandemere
❀ Woman's Auxiliary

	THU	FRI	SAT
ookstores, arters, and ve College Closed Year	**2** ◆ Layman's League Promotional Committee, OFWB Headquarters, 7:00 PM	**3**	**4**
EAR'S	**9**	**10** ✢ FWB Press Deadline	**11**
	Leadership '97 Seminar		
	16	**17**	**18** ❀ Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee
	23 ○ ✢ ✚ Meeting of Sunday School Board, FWB Press Board, and Convention Officers 7:00 PM	**24**	**25**
	30	**31**	**1** February is Christian Education Month

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

FREE UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEA LEVEL

Dr. Pepper Worthington — Part One of Two Articles



The Free Union Free Will Baptist Church of Sea Level, NC, was organized August 25, 1896. (Julian Gaskill, left, is a deacon and the Rev. Michael G. Warning, right, is the pastor).

"Christ is in history in this church," said the Rev. Michael G. Warning, pastor of Free Union FWB Church of Sea Level. "Today is a time of remembrance and reflection," he continued. "We wish to remember those who have gone home to God, those who have been vital to this church."

Members of the congregation began to speak at the Centennial Celebration on November 10, 1996. Three deacons were remembered: Floyd Gaskill, Weston Taylor, and Frank Harvey. A flower arrangement with three white candles glowed for these three bulwarks of the church.

"Remember Rebecca Lewis, who is 92-years-old," said her son. "My mother used to come early to this church and start the fire in the wooden stove to get the church warm for the people. She is still alive and at the Sea Level Extended Care Home." Her daughter, Pauline Gaskill, also wished for Rebecca Lewis to be remembered.

As more then 100 people gathered to celebrate the hundred years of the church's life, other names were called: "Marie Lloyd passed away three Christmases ago."

"Weston and Geraldine Taylor came to this church."

"Mamie Taylor's son David was one of the boys who grew up here."

"And Ed Taylor was here."

"Eugene Gaskill attended this church for years. Even when Eugene suffered from Alzheimer's he still could pray a beautiful prayer."

"It just doesn't seem right not seeing these people here."

"Tilman Taylor was a deacon here for years," said Ruth Fulcher, his daughter. "He believed in the Lord. He was *always* here."

"I was the minister here for 11 years," said the Rev. Hillary Gaskins. "I learned a lot from those people. This church has been a lighthouse. Today is a celebration of 100 years because this church is based on the Lord Jesus Christ. This church has survived because it was built on the Lord Jesus Christ. We make the church by the way we live."

"I remember how happy Floyd Gaskins was after the feet washing service," added the Rev. Gaskins. "He told me he was the happiest he had ever been."

"Joe Gaskill was the one who was supposed to be the founder of this church," recalled one member. "When I was a boy, an old preacher came to preach. He took a fish box, laid a board across the box, laid the Bible on the board and preached. When he was told a widow woman needed help, he took an offering. All the money was put in the preacher's hat and he gave his hat to the widow. That old preacher was Joe Gaskill. He founded this church. He was 40 years old when he started preaching. He lived to be 79. That was something that always impressed me."

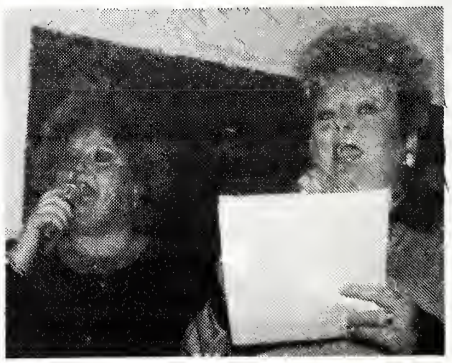
"A church 100 years old isn't all that old," said the Rev. James McCandless. "That's only 25 years older than I am," he said with a laugh. "But this is a strong church, a beautiful church, and I enjoyed serving here as pastor in the late 1980s."



Pastors who have served at Free Union FWB Church were honored. (Left to Right) the Revs. James McCandless, Hillary Gaskill, Michael G. Warning, Clifton Styron.

Before the Centennial Celebration sermon, two sisters, Debbie Gaskill and Linda Gaskill, offered special music. They sang songs of thanksgiving because Jesus came into their hearts. The sisters also sang during the afternoon song festival at the church.

One member rejoiced in the music, applauded and said, "We can't talk about this old church without a sense of its history, a sense of the people who prayed here, taught here, preached here, sang here. The church is a church of *real* fellowship."



The sisters, Debbie (right) and Linda (left) Gaskill, sang at the Centennial Celebration.

1996 Christian Worker Award Presentation at Westside

The following presentation was made at Westside Church, Kinston, NC, by Pastor Jeff Daughtry at the annual Harvest Day celebration on Sunday, October 13, 1996.

It is my pleasure to present the Christian Worker Award on behalf of the Board of Deacons and Westside Free Will Baptist Church. The Christian Worker Award is presented to an individual whose work for his church stands out; one who goes beyond the call of duty. We have not presented this award for a couple of years, not because people have not been working, but because everyone works so hard, and together, that no one individual stands out.

The individual being recognized today stands out for his service to his church. I wish I could list all of his services to our church and then tell you his name, but you would know who he is very soon.

The 1996 Chrisitan Worker is Steve Roman.

Steve is the chairman of our Board of Trustees. Since he became a member of the Trustees, the parking lot we dedicated in this service has gone from a vision to a reality. Our barn which burned a year ago today was rebuilt. Our shelter was also rebuilt, but Hurricane Fran put it on the ground. It will be rebuilt.

We installed a fence on the border of our property. It was vandalized and Steve chased down the boys responsible and arranged for them and their families to make restitution.

Hurricanes Bertha and Fran required estimates and arranging for repairs. We will get a new roof on the entire church because of the Trustee's negotiations with the insurance company.

Since our break-in, Steve has been working with the Kinston Police Department to find ways of providing security around our Church.

And he listens to all your gripes and complaints!

He is an assistant Sunday school teacher. He and his wife, Lori, teach Vacation Bible School. He is a Pre-School Church teacher, he teaches Children's Church, and he volunteers in the nursery. I have walked past the nursery on Sunday mornings and seen Steve sitting on the floor with children crawling all over him. He has one other annual responsibility I can't share because it would spoil the children's excitement.

Steve does one other thing that is more important than all the above, and it really stands out to me. Lori works at Caswell Center, and as you know that is not a nine-to-five, five day a week job. Lori has to work every other Sunday. Steve dresses and brings his two children, Kristin and Ryan, to Sunday school and church. He is an exceptional father and knows the importance of having his family in church.

Steve also participates in the Young Men's group and serves as an usher.

And he does all this with a smile.

Steve and Lori love God and their church. They are proud of their church and many of you are here today because they invited you. Some of you are here because someone they invited to come, invited you.

Steve loves to have fun. On our church ski trip last January, there were people lined up to get on the ski lift across the bottom of the slope. Imagine Steve going down the mountain headed right for those people, and he yells, "I'm out of control!" They parted like the Red Sea.

Steve is a Wayne County Probation/Parole Officer and also teaches at Lenoir Community College.

It is my privilege to present the 1996 Christian Worker Award to Steve Roman. The plaque reads:

CHRISTIAN WORKER AWARD

1996

Presented To

Steven V. Roman

For Dedicated, Faithful,And

Exemplary Service As A

Christian Worker In

WESTSIDE FWB CHURCH



Steve Roman, his wife, Lori, and two children Kristin and Ryan

Remembering Mrs. Kate Rains Merritt

Mrs. Kate Rains Merritt was born August 5, 1904 at Rains Cross Roads in Johnston County. She acquired her early Christian training from her mother and the church across the road, a church built on land previously owned by her grandfather. She became active at the early age of fourteen by organizing the first Memorial Day program to be held at Rains Cross Roads FWB Church, a Memorial Day that is still celebrated.

She moved to Rocky Mount a few years later where she married Otto C. Merritt and in the twenties they started a family. In early 1929, Mrs. Merritt had a Wadkins salesman to call on her, and in talking to the salesman, he found out that she was a Free Will Baptist. He said that he was Free Will Baptist also, and he knew a man across town who was, too. So the three and their families decided to organize a church in Rocky Mount. After they found enough people interested in forming a church, the First Original Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount was born. Their first service was held on the first Sunday in March 1929. Later, Mrs. Merritt helped organize the League, the Woman's Auxiliary and the youth groups.

The depression hit during that year and the going was rough, but the group worked hard on the church. When the first building was built, Mrs. Merritt hammered nails in the lanes just like the rest of the workers. If it was thought it couldn't be done, Mrs. Merritt would find a way.

When the sanctuary was built on Cokey Road, the church put on dinners to raise money and sold things that help pay bills. She got to be known as the "best chicken pastry maker in Rocky Mount."

When time came to put in bathrooms, she told her husband she was going to get one of the salesmen that called on him to donate bathroom fixtures. He said, "You can't get them because the companies are too tight." After telling one salesman what she wanted, he told her husband to choose the best fixtures for Mrs. Merritt's church. Her husband and son later installed them free of charge.

She was instrumental in getting windows, lights and pulpit furniture donated for memorials. One chair was not donated, as she said, "The Lord did not lead me to a person to buy it," so the Woman's Auxiliary bought it.

When the church voted to sell the old pews, it was said, "You can't get $25 for them!" She advertised the pews for sale on the radio, and a newly organized church came by and bought them for $850.

Mr. Merritt was a leader in a Baptist church, and she helped him with his church, also. They fed visiting preachers and pastors and provided sleeping accommodations for some who ran revivals. They sent our first full time pastor back to college for more Bible training. He was so appreciative that he visited her as long as he lived.

In earlier years of then Mount Allen College, she was interested in the Free Will Baptists having a college. The church at that time was not interested, so she and her husband would send a donation in the name of the church. In later years, they were instrumental in getting her relatives interested in contributing to the college, also.

Mrs. Merritt had been an active choir member, but as the years went by, she was unable to sing alto. In 1975, the church was in need of a new piano, so she bought a new Baldwin for the church. When the church split in 1962, Mrs. Merritt worked along side of other members to keep her church going.

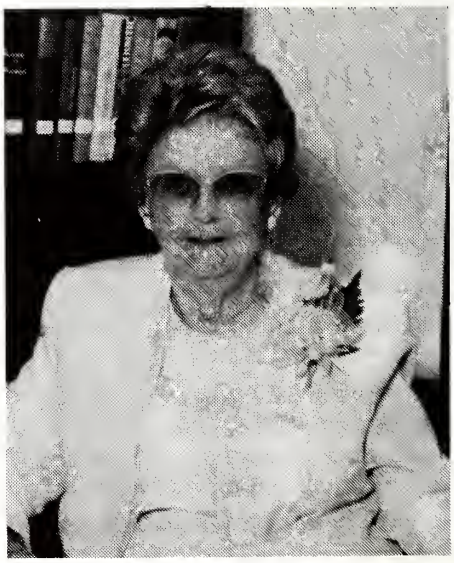
She served as a church delegate to the State Convention and District Conferences for many years. "That's how you learn!" she would always say.

She served as a Sunday school teacher, church clerk for 14 years, president of Woman's Auxiliary, and church historian, just to mention a few. Outside of her church activities, she visited the sick, conducted many cottage prayer meetings, and led others to Christ. One of her greatest accomplishments was leading a disabled neighbor to the Lord and witnessing his baptism because they could not attend church — his family was Presbyterian.

In March, 1979, Mrs. Merritt was awarded the Auxiliary Life Membership Award. This included a pin, certificate and a plaque at the Church's 50th anniversary for her 50 years of service. The Woman's Auxiliary honored her with a birthday party at her home on her 90th birthday.

She never wanted any praise for the work she did for her Lord. She told her family that she didn't want anything said about her work for her church at her funeral, because people knew the kind of life she had lived — that would speak for itself.

Mrs. Kate R. Merritt went on to be with her Lord and her husband on April 21, 1996. A picture and plaque were placed in the Fellowship Hall in the church, in her memory, by the Woman's Auxiliary. She was the last Charter member of Rocky Mount Free Will Baptist Church.



The Late Mrs. Kate R. Merritt

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

That Certain Something

by Julia Pate Gaskins

Thanksgiving is over. Christmas is past. Now we have a wonderful new year to look forward to. Happy New Year from Aldric and me and from Camp Vandemere to each one of you. God bless you as you enter this new year and strive to do His will in your life.

If you are looking for a project for this month or for this new year, please let it be us. We are trying to build new 30" beds for our sleeping quarters and this is an expensive project. The cost of each bunk bed will be about $80.00. Then we will need mattresses for each one, and the mattresses will cost about $70.00 each. Maybe God will want you to help us with these projects.

I heard a story about a little boy who had something wrong with his throat, and he could not talk. People called him Shadow because he was always around, but nobody paid much attention to him. Shadow attended Sunday school for many years without missing. He sat by himself in a corner and could never help do anything. He was not popular. He was never president of his class. Nevertheless he was always in Sunday school. He even came to Sunday school the day that he fell out of a tree and broke his arm. The Sunday they had the bad snow storm, he waded through two feet of snow, and he was the only one there except for his teacher. He even came to Sunday school when he had a headache.

While Shadow was still very young, he died and went to be with God in Heaven. When he got to Heaven his guardian angel was there to welcome him. In Heaven Shadow saw that they were making plans for a great celebration. They were planning a party for one of the finest Christians in the world. Shadow began to cry. He wished that he could have done something wonderful for Jesus while on earth. He could not sing. He could not answer questions from his Sunday school teacher. He could not help in church in anyway. He felt that he had been completely useless. Shadow wanted to know who the fine Christian was. The angel told him that the celebration was for Shadow himself. He was reminded that there were twenty children in his Sunday school class, but the class would have died without the few members who had that certain something. Without that certain something, people are useless for God.

"Aren't you going to tell me what that certain something is?" said Shadow.

"God is spelling it out in the sky right now!" replied the angel.

With big beautiful letters in all the colors of the rainbow, God wrote the letters one by one: **"F., A., I., T., H., F., U., L."**

The Free Will Baptist people have been faithful to Camp Vandemere. We Thank You. My prayer is that you will continue to pray for us and to help us financially so that we will have the very best camping season ever in 1997.

May God be able to say to each of us — "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." Matthew 25:21.

Attention All Laymen!

Camp Vandemere is in need of thirty bunk beds and mattresses before camp begins. The price of the material to build these bunk beds is approximately $80.00 per bed. A good quality mattress is $65.00. The Layman's League will assemble these beds, but we need your financial help. The cut off date for this project is June 1. If you would like to contribute toward this worthy project, please send your contribution to Mrs. Judith Kennedy, 933-N N.C. 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572. Please earmark your donation for Bunk Beds and Mattresses. Thank you for your support.

Important Dates:

January 2, 1997	Layman's League Promotional Committee OFWB Headquarters, Ayden, NC 7:00 PM
May 3, 1997	State Layman's League Singsperation Juniper Chapel OFWB Church, Vanceboro, NC Supper 7:00 PM; Sing 8:00 PM
May 9, 1997	State Layman's League Meeting
June 6-7, 1997	Spiritual Life Retreat Camp Vandemere

HISTORY OF THE LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

For many years, there have been men's organizations in our churches called Men's Fellowship, Men's Prayer Breakfast, The Brotherhood, or the Men's Sunday School Class. But not until 1956 was a concerted effort made to organize the men on a broader scale. While we were a member of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, in 1956, an effort was made to begin a national men's fellowship known as the Master's Men. I liked the idea and the plans that were presented and organized by the men at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church of the Central Conference January 16, 1957.

Soon the ladies of the church made light of the Master's Men saying, "All you do is meet and eat." It's true we did meet and eat, but other things were happening too. We were learning to love and appreciate one another. At first, we couldn't even sing a hymn together, so we asked Mrs. Jean Cunningham to teach us to sing. It wasn't long before we had a Male Chorus of more than twenty members as well as a Male Quartet. The Male Chorus presents the special music at church every second and fourth Sunday. They have been invited to sing in many revivals and homecoming services. They also presented the special music in College Hall when the State Layman's League Convention was organized May 15, 1982.

Other churches in the area began a similar work. The Master's Men was growing. However, a serious conflict developed between the National Association of Free Will Baptists and the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists which led to a separation of the two groups. To avoid confusion, the State Convention voted to change the name from Master's Men to Layman's League in 1963. The Layman's League continued to grow so District Layman's Leagues were organized in four conferences, the Albemarle, Central, Eastern, and Western. There are also local Layman's League in other conferences.

—The Rev. C. L. Patrick

On December 9, 1996, the Laymen's League suffered a great loss in the passing of the Rev. C. L. Patrick. We, the Laymen's League, owe a lot to this great man and the time, support, and advice he gave us in our organization and growth. The above is a history of the Layman's League written by the Reverend Patrick. To his family, we extend our heartfelt prayers in your hour of need and our heartfelt thank you for such a dedicated friend.

IN MEMORY

submitted by Lib Boyd

On Monday, June 10, 1996, our Heavenly Father, walking in His beautiful garden, reached down and picked another rose for His bouquet. In his infinite wisdom and tender mercy, He called from our midst, our friend and sister in Christ, Mrs. Ruby Mae Smith, to her Heavenly reward. She was 81 years old. She was a very faithful member of Black Jack OFWB Church, having become a member at an early age. She and her family were native and life long residents of McGowans Cross Roads community. She was the daughter of the late Edward (Bud) and Lucy Arnold Moore. At the age of 18 years old, she married Mr. Grover W. Smith, and together they continued to be committed and faithfully attended and served Black Jack OFWB Church. Mr. Grover preceded her in death on January 24, 1976. Even after that her faith never wavered, and she continued in her quiet way to be faithful and supportive to our church and our auxiliary as long as her health permitted. In the last few months she lived, she was not able to attend church as regularly as she would have liked to, but if it was possible, she was present for our auxiliary meetings. At the time of her death, she was the oldest active member of our auxiliary. She had been a member of our church for 60 some years and a member of our auxiliary almost as long also. She was a devoted wife, a Godly mother, a loving grandmother, a good neighbor, and a friend to all who knew her. One of her greatest missions was to visit the sick, to comfort and encourage them, and help others in need in any way possible, especially those that were lonely, as long as she was able. We feel we can truly say, her life was a living example of a Christian.

Her funeral services were held Thursday, the 13th of June at 2:00 PM in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel. Her burial was in Pinewood Memorial Park.

She leaves to mourn a daughter, Runell S. Forbes; 2 grandsons and their wives; 4 great grandchildren; 2 sisters, Mrs. Cassie M. Worthington and Mrs. Virginia M. Mills; and a host of relatives and friends.

We, the members of Black Jack OFWB Church and the Woman's Auxiliary, grieve her passing, but we bow in humble submission to God's will, for we know our loss is Heaven's gain. May God's shining light be with her family and friends always.

News from...

Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church

Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Ladies Auxiliary recently honored Mrs. Annie Cribb and Mrs. Dorothy Godwin with Lifetime Membership pins. Mrs. Cribb has served faithfully as President of the Auxiliary and refreshment supervisor for Bible School for 25 years. Mrs. Godwin has served as treasurer of the Auxiliary for many years and program prayer chairman.



Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Ladies Auxiliary recognized their charter members of the Auxiliary at a dinner at Dale's Seafood.



Front row, left to right: Cylde Mercer, Katie Duncan, Bessie Cartrette, and Lillie Hinson. Back row, left to right: Dora Mercer, Dorothy Godwin, and Annie Cribb.

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DENOMINATION

News from...

Marsh Swamp FWB Church

submitted by Anne Liles

Marsh Swamp FWB Church at Rock Ridge has received a new face lift. A new porch has been added to the front of the church. This improvement building plan was chaired by Charles Lewis Barnes. The members and friends are very proud of this addition.



Marsh Swamp FWB Church at Rock Ridge honored their pastor, the Rev. Ray Wells, on pastor appreciation day on October 13th. After the regular morning worship service, a soup and sandwich lunch was served and enjoyed in the church fellowship hall. After the meal, the Rev. Wells was presented a Tom Clark collection and a love offering gift. Also, the group enjoyed a special belated birthday cake honoring the Rev. Wells' 50th birthday.

News from...

Christian Chapel

GREAT BAZAAR

On November 23, the church family of Christian Chapel once again worked hard and was rewarded for its effort. Many years now they have had an annual Bazaar to raise money for different things that go on in the church. Their hard work and the support of the community paid off! They had a Country Store with crafts, jellies, canned goods, cakes, and also sold pork and chicken plates.

BELLS ARE RINGING!

The small children at Christian Chapel will take part in the Morning Worship Service on December 15. Catherine Tyndall, Patsy Sphere, and Ashley Martin will conduct the children with their bells.

Williamston Free Will Baptist Church

Williamston Free Will Baptist Church welcomes their new pastor, the Rev. Wayne Watson, and his wife Darlene.

The Rev. Watson recently moved into the parsonage on Spruce Street and began his work here. He is well known in North Carolina and South Carolina and the congregation feels he is the pastor God selected for the Church here in Williamston.

Many know that the Church has been without a full-time pastor for some time. Many preachers have helped us by being supply pastors, and the Church would like to thank each of them for helping us. Especially, we would like to thank the Rev. Willis Wilson for his help, his inspiration, and his preaching of the Word, and his kindness will always be remembered as he served as an interim pastor for us.

We look forward to having the Rev. and Mrs. Watson with us for a long time. We have already learned to love them and we appreciate their efforts for us. We believe that God will bless this Church and its work under the leadership of the Rev. Watson.

The Rev. Watson wants his friends and associates to know that he is happy to be here and he feels at home. He has found the people to be friendly, loving, and kind. He believes that the people are willing to go forward for the Lord, and because of this willingness that the work of God can grow and that a great work can be done here in Williamston. He and the Church request your prayers for all of us in our endeavors as we work together to serve the Lord. Our main goal will be to put God first in our lives.

Visit us at 104 Spruce Street when you can. Please keep us in your prayers daily. Our telephone number is 1–919–792–7002.

Happy New Year
From
The Free Will Baptist Press
and the
Bible and Bookstores
Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, & New Bern

FYI for your information ? ? ?

PASTOR NEEDED

White Hill FWB Church is seeking a pastor.
If you are interested, contact:
Gary Jordan
PO Box 519 • Aurora, NC 27806
919–322–5615

St. Mary's Grove FWB Church in Benson (Cape Fear Conference) is searching for a full-time pastor.
If interested contact
Danny Coates
1131 N. Pleasant-Coats Rd • Benson, NC 27504
919–934–5392

ATTENTION

Plan Early for
Bible School Workshop
Thursday, March 6,
at 7:00 PM
&
Saturday, March 8,
at 10:00 AM

PASTOR AVAILABLE

The Rev. L. Grady Tucker will be available for full-time or part-time pastoral service and/or Revival services effective October 7, 1996.
Contact :
Rev. Tucker – 919–633–0986 or
705 River Road • New Bern, NC

Ordained Minister, Jerry E. Rowe is available for regular, supply, or interim pastorate within commuting distance from his residence in the Newport, NC area.
Contact:
Jerry E. Rowe – 919–393–8890 or
138 Pearson Circle• Newport, NC 28570

Rev. A. B. Bryan is available for full, part-time, supply, interim or special services.
Contact:
Rev. A. B. Bryan – 919–736–8996
231 Five Points Road • Dudley, NC 28333

Ordained Minister, Braxton Carter, is available for supply work, full-time or part-time pastoral work, fill pulpits for vacation or sickness, and/or youth minister positions.
If interested contact
Braxton Carter
103 Alpine Way • Clayton, NC 27520
919–553–7246 (H) • 919–505–6105 (pager)

Clifford Ball is available for pastoral work, if interested contact:
Clifford Ball — 524–4337
6138 Weyerhaeuser Road • Grifton, NC 28530

Richard Glosson is available for full-time or regular supply interim.
Contact
Richard Glosson — 919–734–8895
110 Crosswinds Drive • Goldsboro, NC 27530

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary voted at their fall meeting to change their 1997 Convention to Saturdays temporarily. The spring meeting will be March 15, 1997 at Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church, Sneads Ferry, NC and the fall meeting will be on Saturday, September 20, 1997.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

We Are Here to Help!

While the job description of the Executive Administrator includes a lot of administrative work, the bottom line is service. We are here to serve you and to serve on your behalf! We want to make it possible for churches and ministers to fulfill the call of God in their ministry. We want to provide the support, tools, and resources that are needed by local churches and pastors.

We do not believe that it is our job to tell anyone how to do ministry, but rather to offer assistance to those who are doing ministry.

We are in the process of scheduling area meetings with the ministers throughout the denomination to listen to their needs and provide an opportunity for them to share ideas about how we can best serve. We do not believe that it is our job to tell anyone how to do ministry, but rather to offer assistance to those who are doing ministry. We want you to call us when you have a need.

We do not believe that it is our job to tell anyone how to do ministry, but rather to offer assistance to those who are doing ministry.

One area that we are able to assist in is the scheduling of workshops, seminars, retreats, and training sessions. By coordinating with our denominational ministries and other resource people, we can usually arrange for someone to provide what is needed. Programs can often be tailored to the specific needs of the local church or a group of churches.

An area of special interest to me is long-range planning and the development of vision for ministry. We can help you with surveys, community studies, development of mission and vision statements, and strategic planning. We are willing to serve as facilitators -- to help you make the decisions. We cannot make decisions for you, but we can help you as you make important decisions about your future.

We are waiting for you to call on us. If you want to discuss ways that we can help, just let us know. We are available and eager to help!

We Need Your Help

We try to keep an up-to-date directory of churches and pastors. Please let us know when changes occur. We often find out through the "grapevine" when changes take place and sometimes we simply do not know until someone complains. People often contact us for reliable information and it is disappointing to discover errors because of a lack of information. Please let us know when changes occur!

We also keep a list of ministers that are available for service. If you are a minister in good standing with your conference and looking for opportunities to minister, please contact our office. We are called on often to provide names of ministers who are available. Don't forget to let us know when you are no longer available as well! (Call the Headquarters: [919] 746-4963.)

Book Recommendation

Every Original Free Will Baptist should read A History of Original Free Will Baptists by Dr. Michael Pelt. It is the most comprehensive work to date on the history of our denomination. It answers major questions regarding who we are, where we came from, and what makes us distinct from other religious groups.

With the attention to detail that is characteristic of Michael Pelt, the book traces our roots from England to the shores of Eastern North Carolina through the many crises mingled with growth that have brought us to where we are today. He gives a very honest, though sometimes painful, account of the events that have shaped the Original Free Will Baptists of the English General Baptists Heritage into the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

The book unfolds like a well-written drama. There are victories and tragedies, There are also heroes and even some villains. Mostly, there are ordinary, everyday people, who with God's help, have made extraordinary accomplishments. There are lessons to be learned and there is humor to be enjoyed.

The 400 page volume is large but contains charts, pictures, endnotes, and an index. The large type makes the book comfortable to read. The index is a valuable tool for finding information contained in the book and will serve well as a reference tool. While serving individual readers, the book should be on the shelf of every Free Will Baptist Church library and in the public libraries of communities and schools.

A History of Original Free Will Baptists is available from the author, the Free Will Baptists Press bookstores and the Convention Office.

Please Note

The name of this page has been changed from Notes and Quotes to Convention Update in an attempt to better convey the page's content.


Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Anne Graham Lotz. *The Vision of His Glory: Finding Hope Through the Revelation of Jesus Christ.* Dallas: Word Publishing, 1996.

Billy Graham's daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, dedicates her new book to the hopeless of the world. Her book is her gift to the King of kings and to readers who have experienced such a level of tragedy or death that there seems to be no hope for the future. As she encounters the book of Revelation, she declares, "Revelation is, above all, a Book of hope, and the blessing to be found in its magnificent imagery has been, for me, a continuous, awesome experience of worship as it has led me to a fresh, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ" (XV).

Depressed by the Smallness of Our Own Lives

As Anne Graham Lotz watched people rushing in an airport, she felt the smallness of her own life. Problems, poverty, drugs, and illness can create a sense of insignificance. If the word *revelation* means to "unveil," then what does the Book of Revelation unveil? The Prophet John speaks of the blessing of *seeing* Jesus, of *seeing a vision* of glory and hope that Jesus brings. By seeing Jesus, our eyes are taken off our small selves and focused upon the hope of Jesus. Anne Lotz insists, "A wonderful antidote for depression is to refocus, through praise, on Who Jesus is" (10).

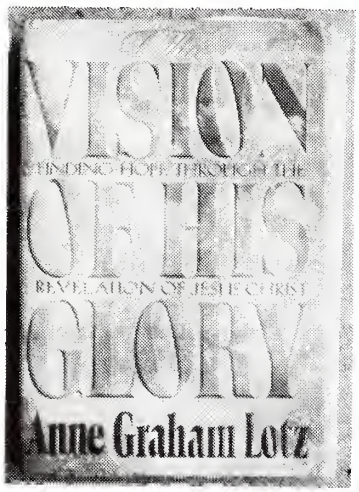
Who is Jesus? In the Book of Revelation the "eternal omniscience of Jesus Christ" (13) is emphasized. Jesus is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent as He becomes part of God and the trinity.

How does Jesus help us in our insignificance? Jesus reminds us not to fear for what we are to suffer, because Jesus believed in the Father. Jesus asks for the believer no matter how apparently insignificant to take a stand for faith in God. Queen Esther took a stand. Paul took a stand. Anne Graham Lotz encourages all to take a stand despite the fear of insignificance, "fear of public failure, fear of critical comparisons, fear of upturned faces, and fear of total inadequancy" (93).

The Problem of Evil and the Ungodly

Though the power of evil and the ungodly may seem overwhelming, Anne Lotz turns to the image of Jesus seated on the throne in the Book of Revelation. Anne Lotz concludes: "John saw Jesus at the center of the universe in full, absolute authority. Even when He seems silent and inactive, even when bad things happen to His children as they did in John's day, even when the wicked prosper and the ungodly are in the majority, *the Lord is still on the throne!*" (105).

What do the other images in the Book of Revelation tell us of John's prophecy? What do these images have to do with the evil in the world? Anne Lotz's interpretation sweeps these images into the sign of God's covenant, power, and presence with us *despite evil.*



Conclusion

The Prophet John gives us the vision of God's glory that ignites our faith in a journey that does not end in annihilation but in hope. We separate to go to death, but the thrill of hope rules our separation. Our hope lies in the faith that Jesus will come again, and His return keeps us awake. Shelley reminds us in *Prometheus Unbound* "to hope till hope creates/From its own wreck the thing it contemplates."

***The Vision of His Glory* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson**

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

How Do You Like Retirment?

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

Retirement Redefined

It has been two years since I left the office of president of Mount Olive College, a position I held for forty years. At virtually every public gathering which I attend, a friend will ask, "How do you like retirement?"

I am always glad to respond to this question and to discuss how I have redefined retirement for the Golden Years. I am still employed by Mount Olive College, and I am working full-time, usually overtime, but I am feeling the best I have in ten years or more.

The next question is usually, "What kind of work are you doing?" I like this question also!

A Diversity of Services

First, I am an ordained minister and I welcome invitations for Christian ministry. Most Sundays find me speaking in a church for a College Day Service or as a guest minister.

When I retired from the presidency of Mount Olive College, the Board of Trustees conferred upon me the title of "President Emeritus," an honor which I appreciate. The title carries no administrative authority or responsibility for the operation of the College. It is an appropriate title, however, for some writing I am doing, including *The Golden Years* and a planned history of Mount Olive College.

The Trustees also asked if I would continue my service to the College in the area of gift support and I agreed to do so, subject to the wishes of the new president. My new title is "Director of Planned Giving," which includes life-income gifts and estate planning, an area which provides me an opportunity to render valuable service to friends of the College.

Financial and Estate Planning

Our estate consists of all our assets and liabilities. Good planning includes the effective management of these assets during our lifetime as well as planning for their transmission beyond our lifetime.

Estate planning is not simply for the wealthy; it is for all of us. Everyone need a financial plan, for without careful management and wise planning, our assets, regardless of their value, may not provide us the security we need during our Golden Years.

My work includes exploring ways to increase one's lifetime income. For example, I have found senior citizens with substantial bank accounts receiving only two to three per cent interest for their deposits when a simple rearrangement of their funds, sometimes in the same bank, would more than double their yield. In addition, many people have low or even non-income producing assets which could be converted to lifetime revenues that would help to improve the quality of their lives.

For people who are willing to include Christian Stewardship in their financial and estate plans, the Internal Revenue Code includes both income and estate tax advantages. The tax codes are complex, and it is important that they be followed to the letter.

In addition to increased income and reduced taxes, another important benefit of good estate planning is provision for a spouse or dependent. Unless we do our own planning, the government will do it for us, and its planning can be very impersonal. Before me is a notice from Medicare addressed to "The Estate of ____, " (a deceased person for whom I am serving as executor). The notice reads: "The flu season is here! Get a flu shot... not the flu!" The decedent is even advised the hospital where she can get the shot — the hospital in which she died several months ago!

Life-Income Gifts

Life-income gifts are an investment one makes in return for an income for life. Funding may be in the form of cash, real estate, stocks, bonds or other assets. In addition to providing an income for life to the donor, the spouse and/or dependent, these gifts have major income and estate tax benefits. Each investment is covered by a legally drawn agreement which meets all the requirements of the IRS.

The advantages of these investments are many. They provide an income tax deduction the year in which they are made. If the investment is with an appreciated asset, the capital gain tax can be avoided and thereby the income to the donor can be substantially more. Life-income gifts are especially advantageous for persons who wish to provide for a family member who might need an income rather than responsibility for the management of financial affairs.

Helping Good People Do Good Things

In summary, my work is showing good people how they can do good things for themselves and others both during their lifetimes and beyond. I would welcome an opportunity to review without charge or obligation the benefits of Christian Stewardship through financial planning, life-income investments, and estate planning.

Interested persons are invited to contact me at 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (Phone 919–658–5250) or at home, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (Phone 919–658–3855).

Essential Skills And Qualities For Christian Leadership

by K. David Hines
Chair, Religion Department, Mount Olive College

Sometimes our children receive the wrong message. On the playground the tallest, the fastest, the strongest, and the most coordinated become the leaders. Other children will quickly learn to emulate their local stars as well as those who rise to the top of the athletic world.

Sometimes the message learned on the playground does not carry over well into the Church. We are all too willing to place in leadership the person who can put on a good show and look good in the process. If this doesn't work, we will look to the one who can "speak loudly and carry a big stick." Somehow these views do not seem consistent with the Lord of the Church who came to "serve rather than be served."

Am I suggesting that congregations do not need strong leadership? Absolutely not! I am suggesting that the essential skills and qualities for leadership in the Kingdom of God are different from those seen on the playgrounds of America. Samuel had this same problem when the time came for a king to be anointed to replace Saul. When he saw Eliab, one of the sons of Jesse, he thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him" (1 Samuel 16:6). Samuel found himself guilty of making the same kind of hasty judgments that we often make: judging based only on appearance. God has a different standard: "...Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). The following paragraphs list characteristics of those who will dare to be Christian leaders.

1. Commitment of the Lordship of Jesus Christ

Effective Christian leaders recognize first of all that they serve under the Lordship of Christ, who in Paul's language is the head of the body. This first quality is a commitment and provides a perspective for leaders.

As a commitment, it involves the surrender of one's life to Christ. In Matthew 16:24 Jesus stated: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." The idea of self-denial is one of the most frequently misunderstood concepts in the New Testament. Often, well meaning Christians will view self-denial as "doing without something they would like to have." Self-denial means much more — it relates to "who is in control." Christian leaders willingly relinquish control of their lives to Christ.

This understanding of life as lived under the Lordship of Christ should impact the way we seek to exercise leadership with a congregation. Sometimes we hear pastors saying, "I'm the pastor of this church. God led me here." Such an attitude may result in a "my way or no way" approach to church work (notice: I said church work instead of *ministry*).

Christian leaders: let's keep our roles in perspective. Remember that we are under shepherds. We are not the heads of the Church or even the chief executive officers. We are servants of Him who is the head—Jesus Christ.

2. Development of Good Communication Skills

One of the vital roles of a pastoral leader is articulating the vision of the Church. Effective pastors know how to define this vision clearly and share it with the congregation. Some pastors know how to "dream God's dreams," but they lack the needed skills in communication to bring the congregation on board, resulting in a confused church. W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus of Mount Olive College, shares a quote which describes this condition: "The reason for the mist in the pews is the fog in the pulpit."

Some pastors are fortunate enough to be blessed with outgoing, engaging personalities and find it easy to share a message with others. The rest of us will just have to work harder. We need to understand that our leadership skills will never exceed our ability to communicate. Effective communicators understand how to utilize three mediums for getting the message out: the written word, the spoken word, and visuals.

Both the written and the spoken word involve the use of language. While this may sound nit-picky, our congregations have a right to hear and read the words of their pastor in English that is clear and grammatically correct. Due to recent conversations with church members, I have come to realize that the pastor's use of language is important to our parishioners. As a teacher, I refuse to grade papers in which the students have butchered their native tongue. We should not expect our people to listen to one make grammatical mistakes Sunday after Sunday. They will vote with their feet (i.e., they will begin attending another church or no church at all).

Pastors, pay close attention to your church bulletins, newsletters, and personal letters. Are these full of spelling and grammatical errors? Do the sentences make sense? Are paragraphs properly constructed? These items are not optional for one who desires to be a leader.

What about the visuals? How do your letters, bulletins, and newsletters look? Visitors to your church begin forming their opinions as soon as they arrive. If they are handed a bulletin that is smudged, poorly laid out, and full of errors, they may decide that the leader of that church is a poor manager who lacks a commitment to excellence. *They will be right!*

Allow me to share some suggestions for improving communication skills: a) Let's commit ourselves to improving our composition and speaking skills. Buy a book on grammar and composition, or better, take a class. We are never too old to improve our skills. b) Keep a dictionary and a thesaurus at hand when writing. I keep both of these books right beside my word processor. When I am not sure if a word is being used properly, I look it up! c) Secure a proofreader. When we write, our words make perfectly good sense *to us*. However, they may not to someone else. A proofreader will spot errors that may get by the writer. d) Observe those who are effective communicators. Have you ever listened to Billy Graham preach? He doesn't use sophisticated language or present complicated ideas. Yet he does preach clearly. The bottom line is that he communicates. So should we. e) Read. Read the Bible. Read the newspaper. Read good literature. Read biographies. *Read.*

3. Having the Patience to Prepare to Serve

After being called to the ministry, we are normally so excited about getting on with the work that patience in preparation may fly out of the window. Our excitement for ministry will frequently lead us to look for shortcuts in meeting the educational requirements established by our conferences. When I started college, I had only planned on going for two years in order to meet the ordination requirements of my conference. Fortunately, sometime during that two-year period I realized that I just did not have the skills needed to give effective leadership to a church.

Jesus interpreted the "great commandment" as loving God with one's "heart, soul, **mind,** and strength." Those who love God with their minds will have the patience and dedication to learn all that they can to improve their effectiveness as leaders. I would argue that one is not ready to fulfill the "great commission" until one is ready to observe the "great commandment."

In my opinion, a major factor contributing to the crisis in leadership among Free Will Baptists is that we ministers are often not willing to do the back-breaking work necessary to develop leadership skills. Instead of back-breaking, let's say *eye-straining and mind-stretching*. Let's be honest — getting an education is hard work. If it is not hard work, it is not an education. I had an eighth grade teacher who often said, "God gave you your brain, and He expects you to use it." Our ignorance does not make us more spiritual. On the contrary, a strong spirituality will encourage us to strive for excellence. Loving Jesus is no excuse for incompetence.

4. Willingness to Manage Our Personal Lives

One of the major bonuses of ministry frequently becomes its curse: freedom. As pastors, we are basically free to set our own agenda and work schedules. For the most part, if we are a few minutes late getting to the office, no one really notices. If we don't do a proper exegesis of the texts of our messages, no one will really mind. The bottom line: a lazy person can hide *for a while* in the ministry.

Personal management is a broad topic. It involves maintaining a regular work schedule and learning to prioritize. Often ministers work hard but not smart. In other words, God's time just slips through our fingers without our really accomplishing anything.

Personal management also involves the way we look and conduct ourselves in public. While it is not necessary for ministers to dress as if they were posing for "GQ" magazine, ministers can always be neat and clean. Individuals in the business community are expected to wear the "uniform" of their work: the business suit. So should we.

I was making a pastoral call in a local hospital where I met a fellow minister wearing a jogging outfit. I assumed that he was there with friends and family, but in conversation I learned that he was making his "rounds" at the hospital. Was he dressed appropriately? We must each decide for ourselves.

Don't misunderstand. I am not saying that ministers must put on a suit to cut their grass. However, if we are to be leaders, we need to dress the part. A neatly dressed executive communicates confidence and competence. Aren't these appropriate ways for pastoral leaders to be perceived?

Conclusion

There is a tendency in our culture to measure leadership by charisma (like on a playground). I admit, charisma and charm can be helpful in gaining an *initial* hearing with people. However, effective leaders are more than charming. They are persons of substance who know who they are and the One to whom they belong. Christian leaders have a clear understanding of the mission of the Church and know how to communicate that mission. They know that preparing to serve means a lifetime dedicated to the pursuit of excellence.

Biographical Information

Dr. K. David Hines
Born: November 15, 1958
Married: Teresa Kelly Hines
Children: Ashley (10 yrs.)
Education: Mount Olive College, A.S.; Barton, B.A.; SEBTS, M.Div w/Languages; and D. Min.
Member: Eastern Conference, Kinston 1st Free Will Baptist Church
Denominational Work: Pastor New Sandy Hill OFWB Church and 1st OFWB Church, Kinston. Clerk of the Eastern Conference. Interims, at St. Mary's, New Bern; 1st FWB, Wilson; Westside, Kinston, and Elm Grove, Ayden. Served on Chaplain's Commission. Currently serves on the Eastern Conference Board of Ordination, and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Free Will Baptist Press. Works with General Youth Conference at Cragmont.

Happy New Year from the Free Will Baptist Press:

Americans love new things: new houses, new cars, new clothes, even new years. We may not be able to buy a new house or car, but each of us receives, as a gift, the new year. We even declare a holiday to celebrate this gift of newness. Many of us make resolutions, believing that this will be the year we will keep at least some of them. The first month on the calendar gives us a fresh page to start anew, a point to say, "From this day forth, I will be a different person." That clean, fresh year greets us with hope: "This might be the year that I will follow through, that I will be a better individual!" During the coldest, bleakest season, when days are short and nights are long; the promise of a new beginning offers individuals hope. We call cheerfully to each other, "Happy New Year!" even as we pull our coats more tightly around us to ward off the chill.

Yet we fail; we may make it through a few days, but we eventually fall short of those wonderful dreams we had on January 1. Our failures haunt us; the misery of having tried and failed seems worse than never having tried at all. It hurts to fail; public failure brings humiliation and ridicule, yet even private failure wounds us deeply, making us question our self-worth. The guilt of broken promises robs us of the joy of life. Despair replaces hope, and we trudge into another year of shattered dreams.

Yet Christians, of all people, should live in joy, not despair. We serve a triumphant Saviour, and we dishonor Him with our gloom. We do not have to fail, but we can succeed only when we follow the instructions — God's instructions. We can become new as promised in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

What a wonderful promise to a culture which craves newness! We can get rid of all the old things and have all new things! What a great plan..., unless of course there are a few of the old things that we prefer to hang on to. Every year in preparation for Christmas, I try to convince my children to get rid of old toys they no longer play with, toys they won't miss, even toys they never really loved. I make empty threats, "If you don't get rid of some of these things, you can't get any new toys for Christmas because there's just no room for them!" Giving up the old is difficult for my children; even though they want new things, they cling to the old, and the best I can do is convince them to store some of their least favorite items in the attic. They may be willing to put the toy aside, but nearby, just in case they decide to go back to it.

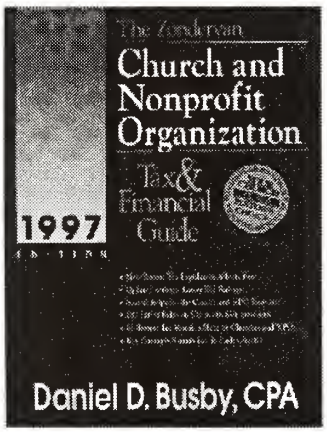
Like my children, I find it difficult to put the old things away. I want to be that new person, that better person; but I want to keep those old habits, those destructive but familiar habits in the attic of my life. That way, if I do decide I need them, I can reach them easily. And that need is why we fail in our attempts to become new. God has promised us the newness, but in order for all things to become new, the old things must pass away; and most of us aren't willing to give up those old things. So are we doomed to a never-ending cycle of hope and despair? No, we do not have to fail! We do, however, have to realize that we cannot become new on our own. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, we can become new creations, **if** we are in Christ. Outside of Christ, our wills are too weak to sustain the newness; that is why Christ had to be sacrificed for us. Christ is willing, even eager, to help us go through that closet of old failures and dispose of them, replacing them with new victories; if we are willing to let go of self-will and allow His will to control our lives.

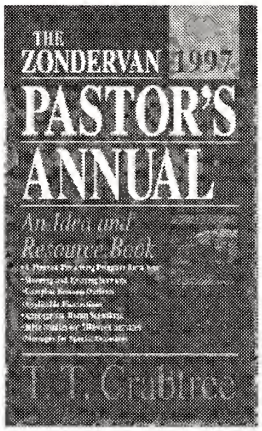
As we look at our New Year's resolutions, we must make sure they reflect a desire to be in Christ. As we become new creatures in Christ, we can truly celebrate in continuing joy now and in the months to come. Happy New Year in Christ!

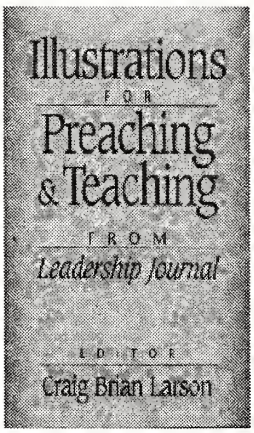
Sheryll Eason Wood

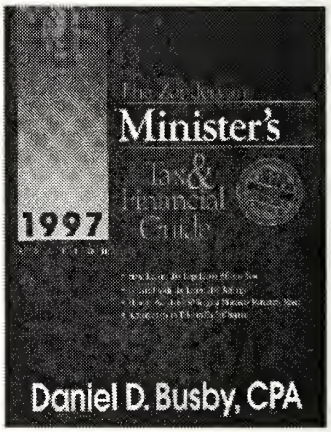
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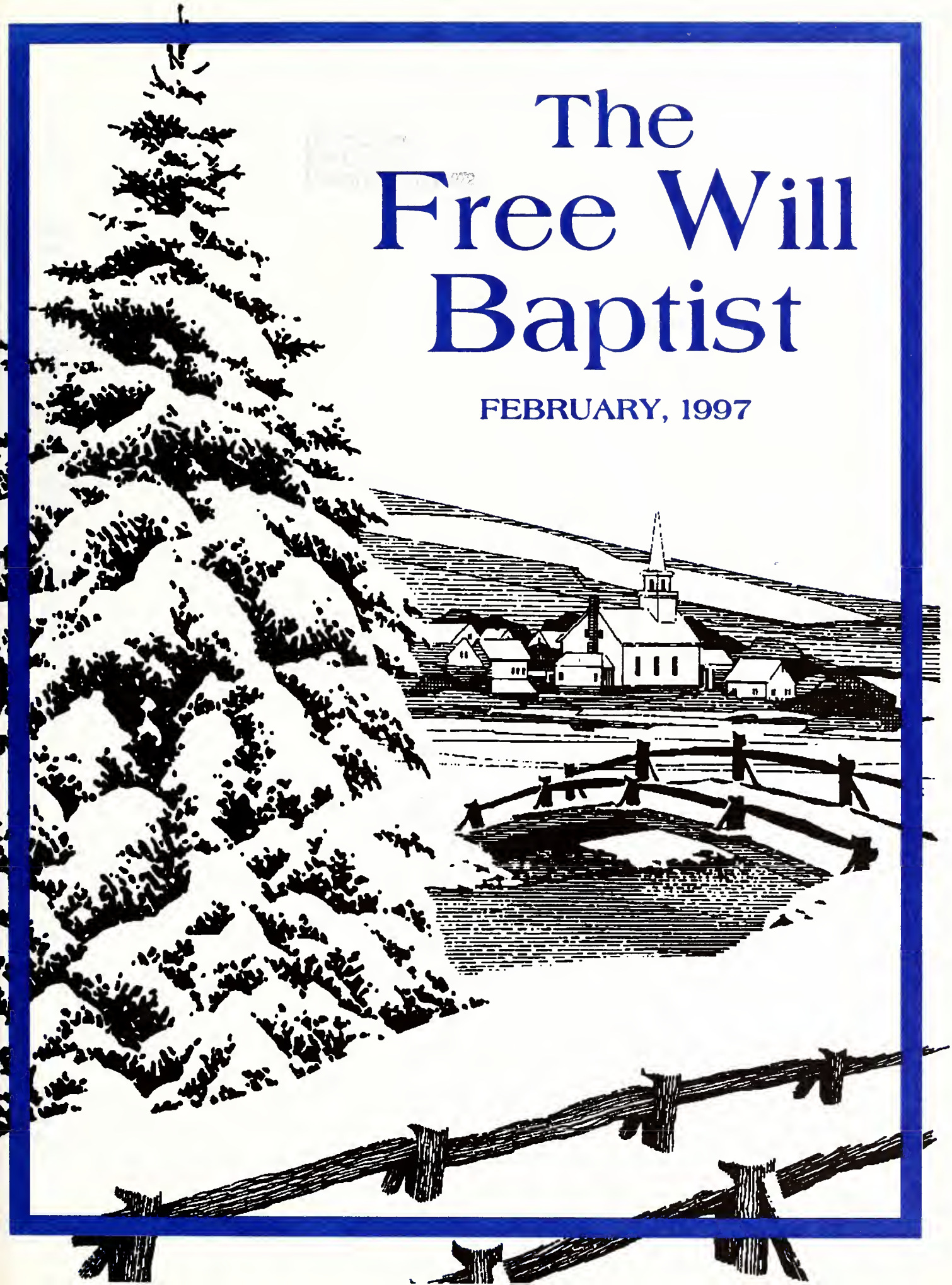
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Name (please print)_____
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Church_____

The Free Will Baptist

FEBRUARY, 1997



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NEXT MONTH

March Is Foreign Missions Month

February Is Sunday School and Christian Education Month

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist.* The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Saturday; **Wilson**, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Monday–Saturday; **New Bern and Kinston**, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Saturday.

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February Is
Sunday School & Christian Education Month



According to Lee J. Gable in ***Christian Nurture Through The Church***, Christian nurture is the total effort of the church to help each person to dedicate himself to Christ and to develop the understandings, the attitudes and the skills that he needs in order to be Christian in his personal life and in his relations with others.

We accomplish this through balancing our emphasis on the study of the scriptures, fellowship or building relationships, and evangelism or the sharing of oneself and the church with others. There are many different approaches/methods which can be used by all organizations in the church to teach and make disciples. The methods are dynamic but the message remains stable.

The Sunday School Board is committed to assisting our churches in developing the knowledge and skills which will enable them to go, teach and make disciples in each of our communities.

For further information concerning how the Sunday School Board can assist your church, contact:

OFWB Sunday School Board
P. O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039



Sunday School Institute

Mount Olive College
Saturday, March 1, 1997

Theme: Evangelizing the Sunday School

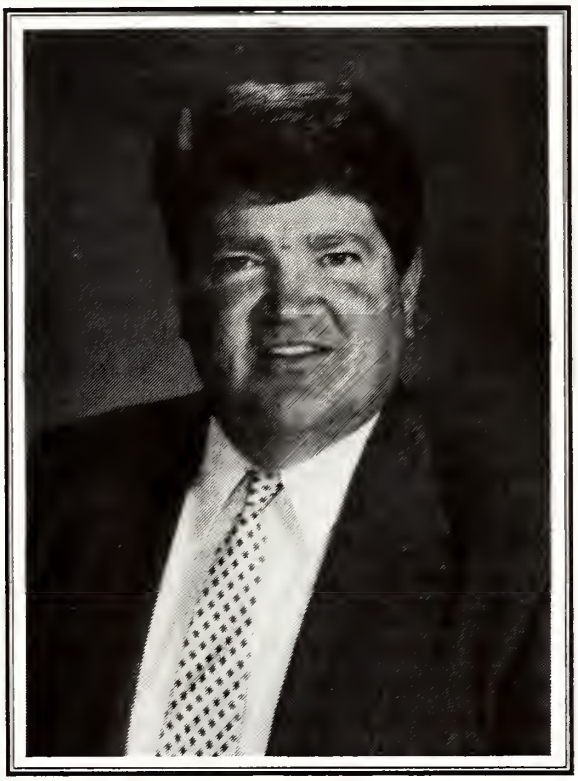
Registration: 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. College Hall

Adult Workshop
Murphy Center 8:45 - 3:30
How to Grow an Evangelistic Sunday School
Guest Teacher: Dr. Dan Reichard of *Church Growth Institute*
Materials Fee: $ 10.00 per person

Youth Program
College Hall 8:45 - 3:30
Directed by: The Reverend Bryant Hines of General Youth I
The Reverend Chris Singleton of General Youth II
Mini Workshops, Cragmont Reunions, Music, Skits,
Field Activities, etc.

LUNCH: 12:00 to 1:00 in Murphy Center
$ 5.50 per adult and $ 3.00 per youth

Sunday School Institute
Seminar Presenter



Dr. Dan Reichard - Biographical Sketch

Dr. Dan Reichard currently serves as assistant pastor at Temple Baptist Church in Madison Heights, Virginia. Previous to this he was senior pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Easley, South Carolina.

Dan's principal duties with Temple Baptist Church are Minister of Christian Education, including local church seminars; Temple Christian School; Sunday School; formation of the Bible institute; and establishment of lay training programs.

Dan was saved in 1972 while serving in the United States Air Force. After completing his Th.D. at Trinity Theological Seminary and M.R.E. at Temple Baptist Theological Seminary, he served as a missionary to the Philippines with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. After serving two years in the field, his wife was diagnosed with cancer and they returned to the states. Mrs. Reichard has since had a complete recovery. He and his wife have three children.

Dan is the most widely used private-church seminar presenter for Church Growth Institute. He conducts *Team Ministry*, *TEAM Evangelism*, and *154 Steps*... Sunday School seminars. He is a gifted communicator and has successfully implemented these principles in his own church.

Attention All Youth

The Sunday School Board Presents

Youth Extravaganza '97!

Saturday, March 1, 1997 College Hall, Mount Olive College

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

There will be music!

Summer Camp Reunions!

Workshops for Youth Leaders

Recreation and Fellowship

Seminars for the Youth

All activities, classes and workshops will be led by staff members from Cragmont GYC I and GYC II. All you need is 3 Bucks for lunch. Register, dress casual - and let's have a blast!

Please R.S.V.P. by February 15th by phone or mail to either Bryant Hines at PO Box 266 Cove City, NC 28523 (919) 633-2683; or Chris Singleton at PO Box 162 Beulaville, NC 28518 (910) 298-3520. ****Note: R.S.V.P. is needed to adequately prepare for lunch.**

Youth R.S.V.P.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Church _____

Age _____

Youth Leader R.S.V.P.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Church _____



Sunday School Promotion Sunday February 23, 1997

Call in your Church's Successes

Call and tell us your Sunday School Attendance, your Morning Worship Attendance, and the amount of your Special Offering.
Call between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.; Call your representative from the list below.

Albemarle Conference — Paul Grubbs — (919) 335-9437
Cape Fear Conference — Kathy Markuson — (910) 425-6698
Central Conference — Frankie Baggett — (919) 746-7850
Eastern Conference — Elwood Hill — (919) 568-3207
Pee Dee Association — Kip Godwin — 800 748-3332
Piedmont Conference — Bobby Foy — (910) 431-2268
Western Conference — Terry Ford — (919) 239-1793

Reminder: Please receive a "special offering" for the work of the Sunday School Ministry.

Free Will Baptist Sunday School

Original
Free Will Baptist
Sunday School Board

Who's caring for mom and dad?

By Jaine and James D. Carter
Scripps Howard News Service

Reprinted from January 2, 1997, edition of
The Free Press, Kinston, N.C. and used by permission

Working couples are the hardest hit by the effects of our aging population.

A growing number of Baby Boomers have found themselves sandwiched between their need to care for their aging parents and their need to provide for their own children's college tuition.

Women still are the primary source of care for older relatives who can't take care of themselves. She is the one who provides for daily living activities such as eating, bathing, dressing and helping elders use the toilet. Even when her partner picks up the slack in other areas of their lives, she feels the greater emotional burden.

This was confirmed by a 1987 University of Bridgeport survey in which many caregivers reported negative health impacts, including depression, more colds and flu and more personal visits to the doctor.

The problem isn't going to go away. According to the Census Bureau, our elderly population increased 11-fold from 1900 to 1994, compared with a threefold increase for those under 65.

That means there are not enough younger people to care for incapacitated older people. This should sound a worldwide wake-up call.

To help solve the problem of who cares for an aging population, Singapore recently passed legislation that allows parents 65 and older to sue their children for nonsupport. There have been more than 100 of these suits filed to date.

Too often children already feel anger and resentment toward their parents for not being as viable as they once were. Old age brings certain predictable realities and no one dislikes them more than the aging person.

Because of that, people are reluctant to discuss the time when they will be unable to care for themselves.

Reluctant or not, take action now to prevent the possibility of running out of funds and emotional resources when your relatives become too old to care for themselves.

Arrange a serious and candid discussion with your parents. Don't let them off the hook. Start with, "I know you don't want to talk about this, but we love you and want to be able to care for you, as you have cared for us. We all need to develop a plan for your advancing years so we don't run out of money ... or time ... or love. Let's discuss every eventuality so we can all relax with the knowledge that we know what to expect."

Ask such questions as, "What if Dad were to become ill? Do you two have enough money to afford outside help? And, "If you become unable to care for yourself, what do you want to happen?

Have a list ready of the various alternatives available (nursing home, day care facilities, in-house elder care sitter, rotating relatives).

Discuss each alternative in detail and assign one of them to research how much each will cost. Insist that they be realistic.



Sara and Tim, in their '60s, have five children and brag that they will never have to worry about their old age. "If worst comes to worst," says Tim, "We'll spend two months each year with each kid. The other two months we'll just travel around in our motor home."

Sounds like a dream? It is. What happens when Sara and Tim can no longer drive? Or if one of them becomes disabled and needs to stay in one location near the primary physician? Or if one or more of the children decide they don't want Mom and Dad around?

Develop a financial plan together. Candidly ask them how much they have put away for their retirement.

Consult with a financial advisor who will be able to give you a good idea as to how much capital you will need 5, 10 and 20 years from today to pay for nursing homes and elder care. Your parents may have to cut back on their spending now, in order to help provide for their future.

Face the fact that government is not going to be your magic rescuer. It simply doesn't have the money to care for the growing aging population.

Remember, too, that the government can't give out more without taking in more. When they take in more, their resource base includes you, the working couple.

For more information
Contact
Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0039
Telephone: (919) 746-4963

News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Thanks For An Opportunity

by Julie Wetherington — Mount Olive College

Many times in life we take opportunities for granted. These opportunities could range from anything — from the people around us to achieving future goals. Regardless of the path we choose to take, we are always presented with opportunities and decisions we must make.

For me, the decision as a high school senior was to choose the college I needed to attend to prepare myself for the future. For you, the decision was to give to Mount Olive College. The result of your decision has allowed many students, including myself, to have a Christian education.

Just as you are presented with an opportunity to give each year, these past two years I was given the opportunity to thank you for all you have done. Each Free Will Baptist student who receives a Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant is required to participate in some way to give back to the church for the financial assistance received. My particular project was assisting Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, at the church dinners held each fall. For the 1996 dinners, she entrusted to me the responsibility of putting together a musical group to show you how much the students appreciate all that you have done for them.

This year something very special happened. "It seems that in almost everything a Christian attempts, there is opposition," says the Reverend Lewis Forsythe. I firmly believe that Satan tries to put his hand in everything that is truly good. However, if we trust in God, He will see it through. As with any time a group of college students try to come together for any function, there were schedule conflicts from the beginning. However, after much prayer and trusting in the Lord, five gentlemen and three ladies pulled together to form the group that five counties were able to see and hear at dinners this year. Each of the young people, I feel, who were chosen by God to be a part of this group, is special. Not only their voices and the testimonies they shared, but also the love of the Lord that burns in their hearts helped to make this group the success it was. The smiling faces, the warm handshakes, the hand of the Lord seen upon His people, and the fellowship that we were able to share with the Free Will Baptist people helped us to really appreciate the opportunity that we had been given.



Left to Right: David Smith, Freshman, Saint Mary's Church, Craven County; William Moore, Sophomore, Friendship Church, Greene County; Julie Wetherington, Junior, Gethsemane Church, Craven County; Anthony Bennett, Freshman, Antioch Church, Craven County; Barbara House, Junior, Union Chapel Church, Washington County; Micheal Thames, Senior, Dunn; Mary Ann Ham, Junior, Hookerton; Daniel Thames, Junior, Dunn.

Daniel Thames commented, "I love to sing, so I was really glad I was able to thank the Free Will Baptist people for what they had done for me."

Each member of our group would like to thank all the Bridge Builders and the many churches who gave what they could, because it has really made a difference in our lives. I would also like to thank Mrs. Ackiss for believing in all of us and giving us the opportunity to share our talents. Knowing that people care about our future helps to make the path we decide upon and the opportunities we choose much easier.

FEBRUARY 1997 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 7	**Transfer Visitation Day, *College Hall***	**9:15 AM**
Tuesday, February 11	**Duplin County Society Banquet, *Lois K. Murphy Regional Center***	**7:00 PM**
Tuesday, February 18	**Music in the Chapel–Organ Concert, *Rodgers Chapel***	**7:30 PM**
Saturday, February 22	**FWB Church Spring Sports Day, *College Hall***	**1:00 PM**
Tuesday, February 25	**Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture, *Rodgers Chapel***	**9:00 AM**
	(Details can be found in the January *Free Will Baptist.*)	

1996 Church Dinners — The Best Ever!

By Jean F. Ackiss

It is a privilege to be Director of Church Support for Mount Olive College and work with more than 400 volunteers during the annual church dinners held each fall. No matter how many times I go to planning sessions and dinners, I am always reminded of the responsibility the College has to serve the Free Will Baptist Church through Christian higher education. It is also an humbling experience to see what Free Will Baptists are giving to Mount Olive College for the good of other people: students who want to develop to their fullest potential for which God created them. I am most grateful for the privilege of working with God's people.

One of the most beautiful words in the Christian's vocabulary is "enthusiasm" which in the Greek means to be "filled with God." As Christians doing God's work, we need to be enthusiastic and accomplish miraculous things. I believe Mount Olive College is one of those miraculous accomplishments because of the enthusiasm of Free Will Baptists and other friends who support its work. I believe this work is called of God and we should do it enthusiastically.

Out of all the private church-related colleges in North Carolina, Mount Olive College receives the highest percentage of support from its founding church. This is an outstanding statistic and one that should be gratifying to all of us. No other college even comes close to the rate of support that our College receives from Original Free Will Baptists. Yes, I am enthusiastic about Mount Olive College and the work God has called it to do, and I am encouraged by the sincere response of our people.

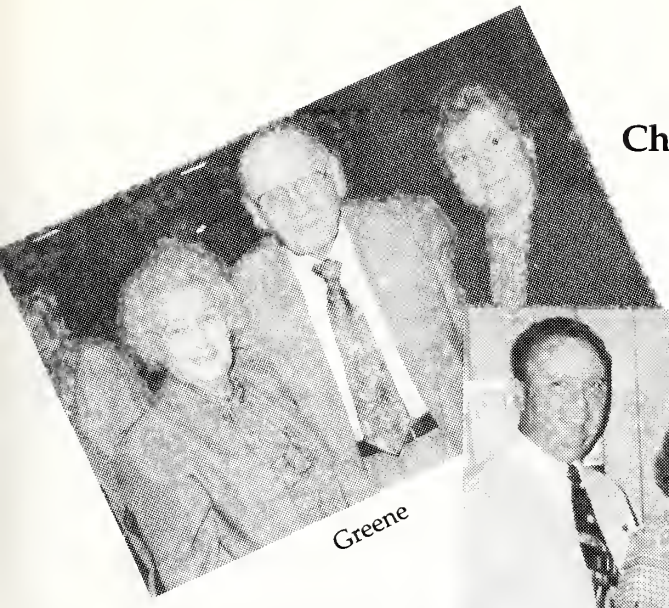
The 1996 Church Dinner Program was a great success! Gifts and pledges from churches and individuals were more than $352,000 — an all time high. This year's goal of $342,625 was exceeded by $9,375. Gifts received at the 1996 dinners were $22,017 more than the 1995 dinner gifts. These figures are more than statistics, they are a response of God's people to God's work!

Your support of the College goes to help students — plain and simple. It helps them with tuition, and it provides scholarships. It helps them to get an education. It helps them to become teachers, scientists, artists, musicians, business people and ministers of Jesus Christ. It helps them to become better parents, better workers, better citizens, and better servants of the church. Every dollar you give to Mount Olive College helps to build a better Christian and a better human being. Isn't that truly what education is all about?

Yes, I am enthusiastic about Mount Olive College because enthusiasm can bring realization to our goals. Through our enthusiasm for the work at Mount Olive College, we can recognize that all things are possible and that we — together — can make great things happen. On behalf of all who benefit from the work of Mount Olive College — the students, the faculty and staff, *Thank You* for standing with us. I pray that we will continue to work together for the growth and development of our ministry and the church.

County	*County Chair(s)*	*`95 Bridge Builders*	*`95 Gifts*	*`96 Bridge Builders*	*`96 Gifts*	*$ Change*
Beaufort	Billy Gurkin	58	$11,719	56	$12,105	$386
Carteret	Sherri S. Noonan/Edgar Pake, Jr.	67	$13,226	78	$14,543	$1,317
Craven	Roy Wetherington	63	$17,895	79	$16,840	($1,055)
Duplin	Tommy Benson	70	$12,443	58	$13,580	$1,137
Edgecombe	Luther Bissette	36	$5,852	40	$5,915	$63
Greene	Randy Beaman/Genevieve M. Taylor	95	$22,626	111	$24,196	$1,570
Johnston-Wake	LaVern Y. Carter	166	$40,853	179	$44,321	$3,468
Jones	Mildred Jenkins	20	$5,700	20	$4,825	($875)
Lenior	Jeff Daughtry	106	$20,125	110	$21,218	$1,093
Nash	John Manning	35	$9,376	37	$9,582	$206
Onslow/ Brunswick	Ronnie Parker	18	$3,890	16	$3,570	($320)
Pamlico	Debbie Whorton/Judy Thaanum	38	$6,642	43	$7,891	$1,249
Pitt	Jane T. Tripp	143	$29,193	145	$30,308	$1,115
Sampson, Harnett Cumberland	Lee Morton Jernigan	168	$31,827	182	$35,267	$3,440
Washington, Martin Tyrrell, Pasquotank	David Cahoon	56	$11,196	57	$14,095	$2,899
Wayne	Tempie Jones/Joyce Edmundson	205	$54,258	196	$58,463	$4,205
Wilson	James B. Hunt/Betty Batts	173	$33,081	178	$35,300	$2,219
Total		**1517**	**$329,902**	**1585**	**$352,019**	**$22,117**

1996
County
Church Dinners



Greene





Nash



Onslow–Brunswick

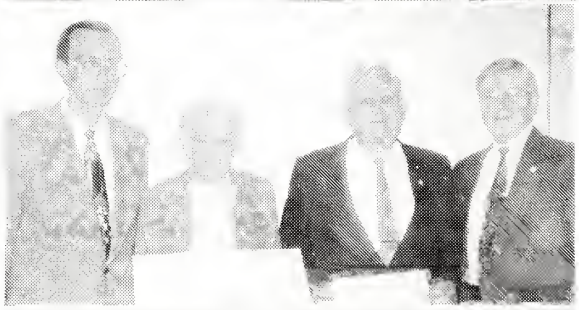
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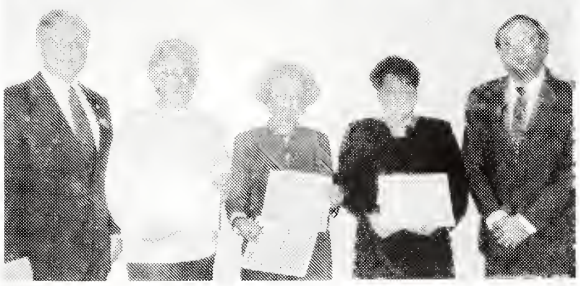
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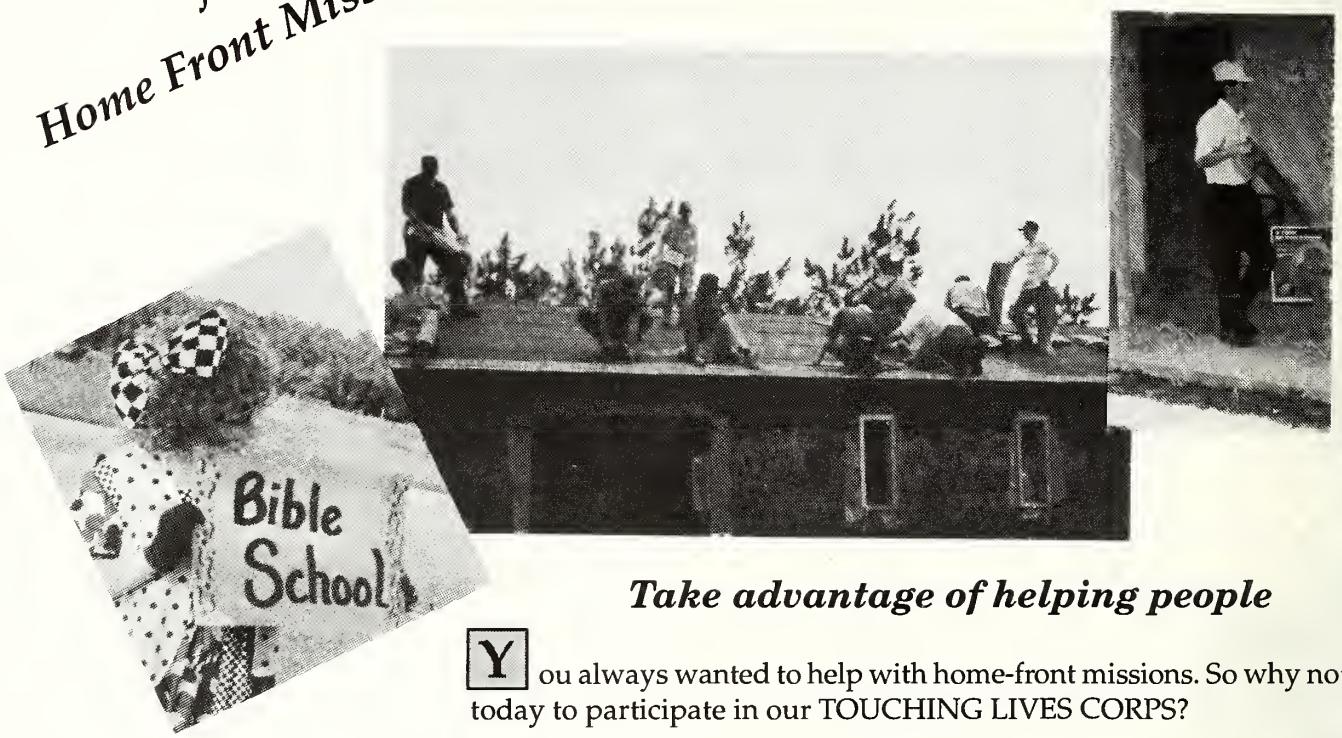
Beaufort >

1997

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Expanding His Kingdom

Are You Ready for some Home Front Mission Work?



Take advantage of helping people

You always wanted to help with home-front missions. So why not apply today to participate in our TOUCHING LIVES CORPS?

Who can participate?

- College students, Single Adults, Married Couples, Senior Citizens, and Youth Groups.
- Persons who desire to do Home Mission endeavors for a weekend, a week, or a month.
- Persons who are willing to be responsible for raising their own financial support for a Home Mission "enterprise."

For more information call or write

(919) 746–4963
Home Missions and Evangelism
Post Office Box 39 • Ayden, North Carolina 28513.

Apply now to help during the summer of 1997
Touching Lives Corps

Looking Ahead

APRIL

Home Missions and Evangelism Month

SUNDAY
April 20, 1997
Home Missions
and Evangelism Sunday
for every
Original Free Will Baptist Church

WEEK OF PRAYER
April 14–20, 1997
For
Home Missions
and Evangelism Ministry

HARVESTERS CELEBRATION FEAST
Friday
April 25, 1997

1997 MISSION RALLY

Wednesday
September 17, 1997
25th
Anniversary
for
Home Missions and Evangelism

Some Things Don't Change!

The Boy Scouts of America celebrates its eigthy-seventh birthday during Scouting Anniversary Week, February 2–8, 1997.

Local councils throughout the country will participate in special ceremonies and awards presentations to help the public better understand Scouting's aims and objectives.

"The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America has not changed in eighty-seven years," say Chief Scout Executive Jere Ratcliffe. "The organization strives to develop good character in young people and to instill in them the values of responsible citizens."

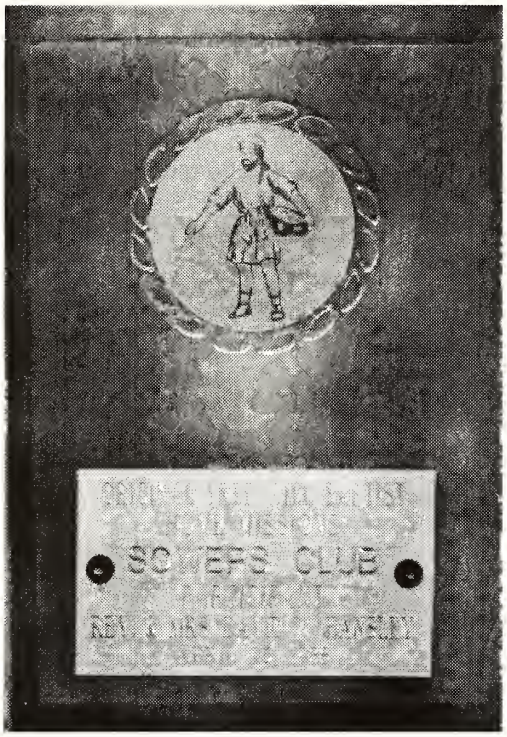
The Boy Scouts originated in Great Britain in 1907. Two years later, William Boyce, a Chicago publisher traveling in London, became lost in a London fog. A young boy offered to help him and led Boyce to his destination. When Boyce thanked the boy for his aid, the boy explained that as a Boy Scout it was his duty to help others, and declined a tip.

Impressed by the boy's actions, Boyce met with Britain's Scouting founder, Robert Baden-Powell, and laid the groundwork to bring the Scouting program to the United States. With the help of Baden-Powell, Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and James E. West, Boyce established the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910.

The first Boy Scout troop's membership grew to a hundred and fifty boys. By June 1911, the movement had grown enough to require election of its first officers. Today, membership in Scouting exceeds five million youth and adult members. More than ninety-four million young people have been involved in Scouting since the organization began in 1910.



FEBRUARY
National Scouting Month
Sunday, February 9, 1997
Boy Scout Sunday



Wood grain, black plaque with gold lettering, seal depicting Sower sowing seeds.

THE FIELD IS READY: THE TIME TO SOW IS NOW!

The Sowers Club

Your Opportunity to Plant

In April, 1988, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism introduced to Free Will Baptists the opportunity to become personally involved in planting churches. A plan called "The Sowers Club" was started. The idea for this is not a new one. The idea of the sower goes back to a brochure used by Free Will Baptist Home Missions in 1959. The idea may not be a new one but the opportunities are. You as an individual can now become a supporter of Home Missions and Evangelism on a one-to-one basis. This plan enables you to give as much as you can to support our efforts of planting churches. You may give from $1 to $10 per week — or more if the Lord leads you to do so.

The Sowers Club is your opportunity as a Christian to become involved in carrying out the Great Commission.

Home Missions and Evangelism

Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513–0039 Phone: (919) 746–4963

As Christians, we do well to remember that all of life is a planting time. Our sowing, both good and bad, will eventually bear fruit. When we scatter the good seed with earnestness and prayer, we can expect a joyous and abundant harvest (Psalm 126:6).

THE SOWERS CLUB

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Date _____

Phone _____

Church _____

Give correct name(s) as to appear on plaque

_____

CHECK ONE BLOCK:

Other (specify) _____

_____

Amount Enclosed $ _____

_____ Monthly

_____ Quarterly

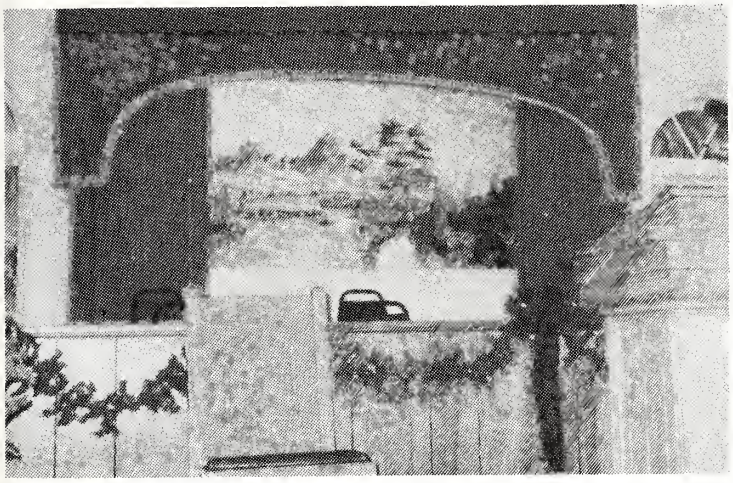
_____ Annually

PER WEEK	
☐	$200
☐	$100
☐	$ 50
☐	$ 30
☐	$ 25
☐	$ 20
☐	$ 15
☐	$ 10
☐	$ 5
☐	$ 2
☐	$ 1

The convenant may be cancelled or altered at any time.

Hillside Mission/Church Continues To Grow

by Joyce Brock



Baptism service for youth from Hillside Free Will Baptist Mission/Church was held at Hugo Free Will Baptist Church.

Five youth from Hillside Mission/Church recently accepted Jesus as their Saviour and were baptized at Hugo Free Will Baptist Church. They are Scott Gresham, Josh Morris, Victoria, Christin and Ben Thompson. Five more adults have also become members of our Mission/Church and more families with children are worshipping with us. We truly give God the praise.

We have organized a youth church on Sunday morning and youth choir practice on Sunday afternoon. We believe this is an opportunity to help these young people to grow spiritually in the work of the Lord, therefore enabling them to witness to other youth.

Our average attendance for December `96 was 43. With more families with children attending our Mission/Church, we really feel encouraged.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Scott Gresham was baptized March 3, 1995, the other children December 1, 1996.



Youth Choir



Scene from Christmas Program.

MINISTER'S PROGRAM

IMPORTANT: LOCATION CHANGE

MINISTER'S ANNUAL TAX SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 13, 1997 — 9:00 AM

HAMPTON INN, KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Information will be mailed to all ministers.

The Minister's Program is pleased to present the Annual Tax and Planning Seminar for Ministers on February 13, 1997. This is the place to come and learn what changes have taken place in the tax code over the past year and to have your questions answered by a tax professional.

The meeting will begin with coffee and Danish at 9:00 AM, and the seminar will begin at 9:30 AM. The cost of the seminar is $5.00 and that includes all materials and a buffet lunch. Be on the lookout for your registration in the mail.

Mark This Date On Your Calendar

Sunday, March 9, 1997

And Plan To Attend The

Annual World Missions Conference

Sponsored by the
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

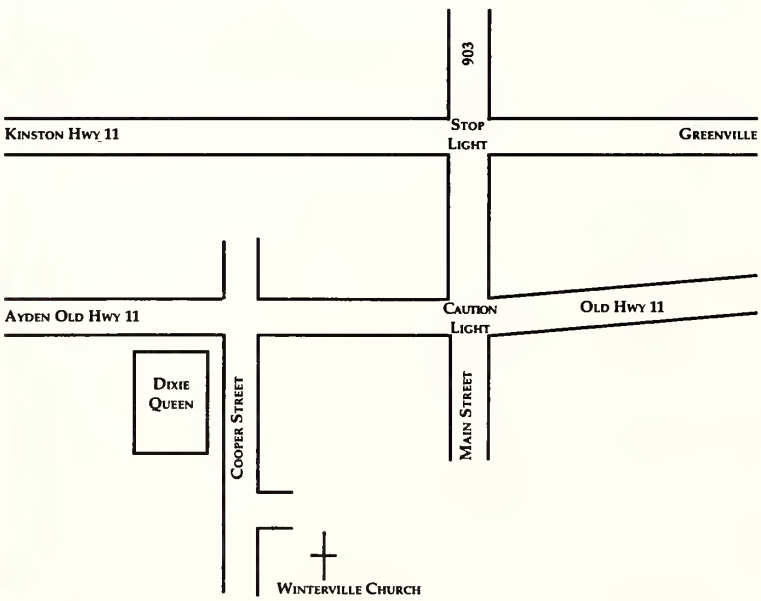


Theme: **The Fruit of the Gospel and the Unfinished Task**

Place: Winterville Free Will Baptist Church
(915 E. Cooper Street, Winterville, NC)

Time:
5:00 PM Opening Service
6:00 PM Light snack provided with the generous help of the host church.
7:00 PM Closing Service
Special Music by host church

Speaker: The Rev. Harold Stevens
Harold and Josephine Stevens served in South Africa from 1948 through 1975. Their primary work was among the Zulu people. Since 1975, the Rev. Stevens has channeled his energy toward assisting missionaries in their own land. He has had the joy of seeing more than 200 enter the field. He is presently serving with "The Harvests." He is an excellent speaker and authority on world missions. You will be blessed by attending.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU. PRAY DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
P .O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513–0039
Phone: 919–746–4963

Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

Sunday, March 23, 1997

Theme: The Fruit of the Gospel and the Unfinished Task

Colossians 1:3–6; Mark 16:15

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions reminds us of the fruit we have seen on our fields, but also helps us to see the unfinished task. Millions still live in darkness, waiting for the Light.

Goal 1997: A total of $125,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can be reached easily if we but look to the fields, to the unfinished task and trust the Lord in prayer for His supply.

The evangelization of the world is the most important task the Lord assigned to the Church. When the Church places this task first, the heart of God rejoices and the Church flourishes.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

Call in your special offering between **1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial (919) 746–4963**. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will show your joy in the fruit and determination to finish the task.

A CHEERFUL GIVER IS BLESSED OF GOD.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

MARCH 23, 1997

The fruit of prayer is revival.
The impact of revival is the vision and energy to complete the unfinished task.

Earnest prayer is essential for revival, for prayer reveals our true desire.

Will Free Will Baptists experience revival? Yes! When? When we desire with our whole heart and fervently unite in concerted prayer for revival, IT WILL COME!

WILL IT BE ON MARCH 23, 1997?
YOU HAVE THE ANSWER.

Prayer Goal March 23, 1997: All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival.

LET US PRAY!

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
P .O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513–0039
Phone: 919–746–4963

Boldness In Witnessing

by Tirzah G. Perocillo

Whether a person works in the government or private firm, it is natural to have a job description. It is natural to have a periodic evaluation in order to measure one's accomplishments in relation to one's goal.

In God's business, the Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines in particular, we feel and know that our number one business is to come to God through prayers. This we have been doing before, usually individually, but for the Visayas and Mindanao Regions, now, we are beginning to come to Jesus through prayer every dawn as a family for one hour.

We come to Jesus to learn, to know Him more and more each day. To know Him is to experience Him, His goodness and His will as He reveals to us when we talk with Him and He talks to us in many different ways that we can discern.

Actually our coming to Him now includes rigid training on more techniques and strategies about evangelism, especially house to house visitation evangelism; how to choose Bible passages, for Bible study needed for a certain type of personality.

I am encouraging all Free Will Baptist Churches, Philippines, to have daily prayers and Bible reading because of the fast soaring crime rate: robberies, kidnapping for ransom, terrorism by Muslim separatist movement in Southern Mindanao. There is sabotage by Muslim fanatics who are getting our evangelical workers to become Muslim preachers with high salaries. And we have other religious groups who even use female members to attract male members of the evangelical Christian churches with the aim to destroy the same. We have so much poverty which resulted in poor health including our preachers. (Malaria in Palawan is getting rampant, attacking our church people.)

Along with prayers and rigid training, we are having a closer and warmer fellowship among our ministers and lay worker/members in order to encourage them. Like Christians of olden times, during persecution they had fellowship even in their hiding places.

Human as we are under these situations enumerated above, without prayers, and fellowship, life becomes dry and this will greatly affect individual worker's output. This is not, however, the case of our people in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. On the contrary, our difficulties and problems, as aforementioned, serve as challenges to our workers. Thus, in a short period of time, we now have 25 pioneering church workers in 7 cities and 2 municipalities with approximately 300 members, and church sympathizers of almost the same number. Despite the fact that our pioneering church workers receive only a very meager allowance intended only to buy rice and fish. I'm encouraging every church congregation to help its pastor, in regards to their children's education and other needs of the family like clothing, hospitalization, etc. When the congregation's help is insufficient, the pastors come to me for their needs, especially hospitalization and food. In this way, every member will be truly planted and rooted in their congregation, because together we work in the church and together we suffer and even risk our lives for the gospel's sake. We have real involvement in the work of the church.

After prayers and rigid discipling, Jesus sent His disciples to the wolves. (Matthew 10) We are doing Jesus' "Way" — of sending disciples "to the wolves." Actually, here in the Philippines, as aforementioned, we are almost literally sent to the "wolves;" hence, we need the prayers of everyone who may happen to glance at this write up. We find peace amidst sacrifices because we know for a fact that Jesus is on our side. I am more than consoled over the fact that "...Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

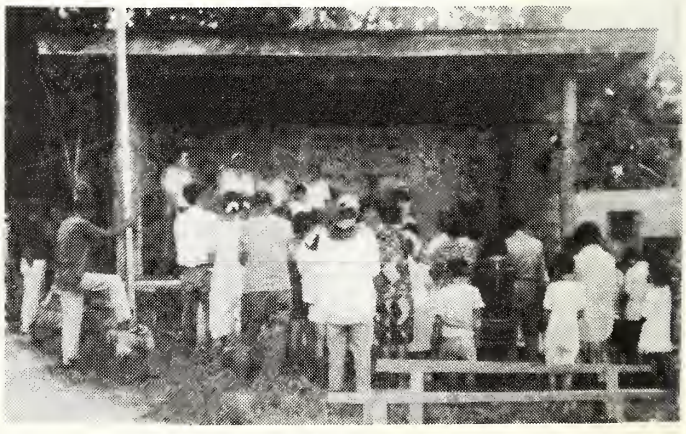
All our houses of worship here in Visayas and Mindanao are rented; we don't have even a space for our children to play. How could we open Kindergarten School?

We believe that God can make a way where there's no way. That is why I encourage every pastor to truly disciple laymen in order to help the pastor increase church membership.

Every dawn prayer sessions, opening kindergarten schools, encouraging every pastor to work hard — day and



Training session for new workers.



Open air evangelism.

SPECIAL PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUEST

Mexico: Praise the Lord for the dramatic improvement of the Rev. Antonio Escobar. He attended the Convention last September. At that time he was in severe pain because of the infection in his right leg. Ministers and deacons gathered around him for special prayer at the conclusion of the Mission Rally. He said that he immediately began to feel better. On Thursday morning following the Rally he was seen by a specialist in Greenville who said there was nothing he could do. Brother Escobar has, however, steadily improved since that special prayer. He recently said that he feels better than he has in years. He attributes this to the Lord through the prayer of the "brethren." Thank you for your prayers. Continue to remember him and our work in Mexico.

Eastern Europe: Willem and Lydia van der Plas have experienced some very difficult times over the past two months. Willem has had several attacks of kidney colic. He has lost a lot of blood. He had surgery on January 3. Lydia fell and broke one of her legs and is in a cast. On top of all this, the weather has been extremely harsh this winter. They are presently in Holland for a time of recovery and medical treatment. Please continue to pray for them and also remember our workers and members in Eastern Europe. This is a critical time; food is in short supply and the living conditions for many people are very inadequate.

Short-Term Teams: Pray for the Short-Term Teams who will be ministering this summer (Philippines: April 18–May 4, 1997; Mexico: June 14–24, and July 12–22, 1997.)

BAPTISMAL SERVICE

by Rev. Dario S. Basingil

On June 29, 1996 the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Sitio Nasidoc, Barangay Manalo had a Baptismal Service. The service was conducted on the Barangay Manalo seashore.

During the Baptismal Service, Sister Faith Perocillo gave the message about baptism.

The young people, adults, and children went and supported the service. The Rev. Dario S. Basingil was the officiating minister with Sister Espalia Taguan and Sister Susan Basingil as witnesses.

Two persons were baptized by immersion. The two persons were Fe C. Perez and Lyrian R. Bonbon. The Bible says, "...they that gladly received his word were baptized..." (Acts 2:41).





Boldness In Witnessing Cont....

night; all these are proposed solutions to all our church problems, especially on finances.

We are certain that some of us are called by God to preach the Word, because we have boldness in witnessing and we have inner joy despite sacrifices. Besides, through the grace of God, our work output viewed against our inputs which is very meager.... This is our assurance that we are on our way to success, but soon, we can do exploits for the Lord God. This is my experience and observation. I've not seen a single devoted Christian in the whole Philippines, who does not enjoy abundant life (John 10:10).

Thus, if there's anyone among us, preachers, lay workers, members who remain lukewarm, and refuse to do hard work and boldness in witnessing, he or she should find exit before pruning time.

February

Is Sunday School and Christian Education Month

Pra
Thi

SUN	MON	TUE	
26	**27**	**28**	**29**
2	**3**	**4**	**5**
9	**10**	**11** 10:00 AM, Foreign Mission Board 10:30 AM, Church Finance Association Meeting, First FWB Church Greenville 7:00 PM, Duplin County Society Banquet, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, MOC	**12** Ash Linc
16	**17** 10:00 AM, Task Force Committee Meeting 7:30 PM, MOC Music in the Chapel Series President's Day	**18** 1:00 PM, FWB Press Board Meeting 3:00 PM, Retirement Home Board 7:30 PM, MOC Music in the Chapel Series	**19**
23 Sunday School Promotion Sunday	**24**	**25** Vivian Harrison Lecture at MOC MOC Board of Trustees Meeting	**26**

ıcerns _____

Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	30	**31**	**1** 6:30 PM, Cape Fear District Youth Meeting at Lee's Chapel OFWB Church
	6 7:00 PM Layman's League Executive Board FWB Headquarter's	**7** 9:15 AM, Transfer Visitation Day, College Hall, MOC	**8**
esday rthday	**13** 9:30 AM, Minister's Program Tax Seminar, Hampton Inn, Kinston	**14** Valentine's Day	**15** 7:30 PM, Central District Youth Fellowship King's Cross Roads OFWB Church
	20 7:30 PM, Children's Home Board Meeting	**21**	**22** 1:00 PM, FWB Church Spring Sport Day, College Hall, MOC 7:30 PM, Western District Youth Meeting, Little Rock OFWB Church FWB Church Night at MOC Washington's Birthday
	27	**28** Free Will Baptist Day of Prayer	**1** Sunday School Institute Mount Olive College Youth Extravaganza '97 Mount Olive College

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

❖ Cragmont News ❖

What is Cragmont???

Cragmont was established in 1945 by the efforts of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina. The property formerly housed a private sanatorium known as Cragmont Sanatorium. The property consists of 116 acres on the slopes of Mount Allen just north of Black Mountain, North Carolina. The initial purchase price of $10,000 was raised and paid off within six months after the property was deemed suitable for conferences, retreats, and youth encampments.

Cragmont's mission has been stated in three words: Inspiration, Instruction, and Recreation. In the beginning conferences, camps, and retreats were planned for the summer and the fall. However, currently the facility is being used year-round. During the winter months many church youth groups have stayed at Cragmont and traveled to the nearby ski areas for lots of fun in the snow. Cragmont's "Snow Hound" program has been designed to assist the group leader in making arrangements with a ski resort area (Wolf Laurel) removing some of the worry and hassle that comes with planning a trip. Many happy hours are spent on hikes, planned outings, or just sitting in the rocking chairs on the front porch enjoying the beauty of the valley across from Mount Allen. Participants learn that Christianity, if it is to be genuine, must encompass one's entire being.

Cragmont has been described as our "Summer Youth Camp." Certainly it is, but it is much more. Cragmont is able to accommodate all our people. Today there are six youth weeks, two woman's auxiliary weeks plus a weekend, and one conference for Free Will Baptist ministers. The use of Cragmont by church groups for spring and fall retreats is also popular. Vacationers are invited to use Cragmont for overnight lodging, as space is available.

Cragmont's mission can be stated in three words: "Inspiration, Instruction, and Recreation."

In the future, we hope to see Cragmont take even more of a leading role in the spiritual life of our people. We want to be an extension of the ministry already going on in our churches. And with more specialized retreats, events, and other programs we hope to expand on the work of those who have gone before. Through the ministry of conferences, weekend retreats, weekday excursions, tours, and worship services, people gather here for discovery, devotion, and discipleship.

If your church is interested in a retreat and you would like more information please contact us at (704) 669–7677, (704) 669–5224, Fax (704) 669–1463.

Cragmont Gets Face Lift

In the spring of last year, some much needed work was begun on the motel, the Floyd House and the Main Building. The motel carpet was replaced, all rooms were painted, and the much needed new bedding was purchased. The small cottage behind the motel, which has been called the Floyd House for many years, was painted inside and out. New shingles, carpet, and some new windows were installed. The north end of the Main Building received the greatest attention with some structural changes to allow for private baths. Carpet, wallpaper, all new bedding, new lights, some new bathroom fixtures, etc. were also part of this project on the north end of the Main Building.

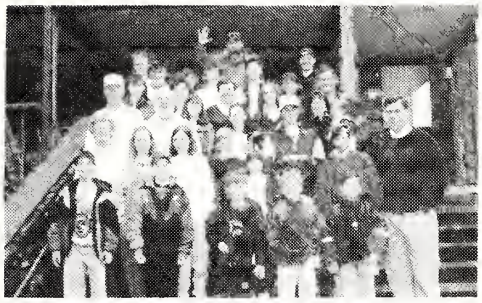
Cragmont has been described as our "Summer Youth Camp." But Cragmont is able to accommodate all our people.



Some of the early work and purchases, such as the new bedding for the motel and north end of the Main Building, were paid for by funds in our savings account. A loan in the amount of $100,000.00 was secured through Church Finance Association to pay for the bulk of the Main Building renovation work. As of this writing the principal of this loan has been reduced to $88,472.80.

Summer Conference Schedule

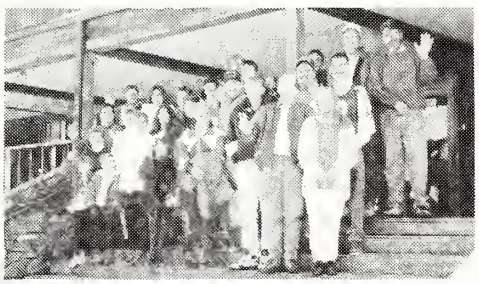
Listed here are the summer conferences along with the director of each conference. To schedule your youth for a conference, pick from the list and contact that director for registration instructions. Begin helping your youth make plans to attend a summer conference now!



Greenville First FWB



Gum Swamp FWB



Kenly First FWB

Morning Star
April 4–6, 1997
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

June Woman's Aux. Conference
June 2–7, 1997
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Minister's Conference
June 9–12, 1997
Philip Boykin
55 Lee's Chapel Church Road
Dunn, NC 28334

Christian Cadet Conference
June 16–21, 1997
Gary Bailey
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)
June 23–28, 1997
Scott and Janie Sowers
Post Office Box 639
Bell Arthur, NC 27811

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)
June 30–July 5, 1997
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II Conference
July 7–12, 1997
Chris Singleton
Post Office Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I Conference
July 14–19, 1997
Bryant Hines
Post Office Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Young People's Bible Conference
July 21–26, 1997
Jesse Fulcher
144 Holly Springs Road
Newport, NC 28570

August Woman's Aux. Conference
July 28–August 2, 1997
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Young people go to camp for many things: band, cheerleading, basketball, etc. Sign them up for a camp that will help them with their spiritual lives.

CRAGMONT!

Cragmont Club

The Cragmont Club was established to help us have a healthier cash flow. Each year the club is responsible for bringing in approximately $30,000, much of which will arrive on a monthly time schedule. While the club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits we hope that these benefits are not the reason for joining. It is our hope that the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to keep alive an important ministry of the denomination.

The Plan

For $10 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent to a weekend at Cragmont at no cost.

Rules

- Benefits may not be used during regularly scheduled conferences.
- Benefits may not be carried over into another year.
- Those persons living under your roof is our definition of immediate family.
- Meals will not be prepared unless there are 15 or more people staying at Cragmont.
- You may use benefits if you are traveling in the area while on vacation.
- You may use benefits while at Cragmont during a church retreat.

To join the Cragmont Club make out your first check for $10 to Cragmont. Each month thereafter a reminder is sent to joggle your memory to send in your next $10.

Church Centennial Celebration
Free Union Free Will Baptist Church of Sea Level

Dr. Pepper Worthington — Part Two of Two Articles

JACK GOODWIN CARTERET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jack Goodwin of the Carteret County Historical Society presented the Centennial Plaque to the Rev. Michael G. Warning, pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church of Sea Level.



This plaque will be placed at the entrance of the Free Union FWB Church.

"How happy I am to be here. I wish to thank Elsie Davis Hunt, Jack and Dolly Carroway who served on the Plaque Committee. This plaque tells folks that this church was established in 1896. The plaque invites folk to stop, think, and look for a moment. Something important happened here. It is not the building but the spirit that is here, that is the congregation," said Jack Goodwin.

"I want to let all of you know also that the County Coat of Arms is the only County Coat of Arms granted by the College of Heralds in London. The Arms are of the Carteret family for whom this county is named. Two whales are there because whaling was an important industry here."

Mr. Goodwin then presented his history of the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church of Sea Level.

HISTORY OF FREE UNION FWB CHURCH

The Free Union Free Will Baptist Church of Sea Level, North Carolina, was organized August 25, 1896, with thirteen charter members, one of whom was Joseph Gaskill. The first services were held in the Old Bay Meeting House which stood near where the present Sea Level Inn is located. Later, a building was constructed for the congregation.

In the great hurricane of 1933, the church was blown from its foundations and the steeple was blown from the roof. Undeterred by this act, the people of the church returned the building to its foundations and replaced the steeple. Tragedy struck again on Sunday afternoon, July 7, 1946, when lightning struck the church and caused a fire which burnt the church to the ground. A new building was completed in 1947, and that is the structure in use today. This building is not an elaborate church with stained glass windows, a large towering steeple, and stately columns, but the simplicity of the structure and furnishings give it a warmth and peace that every visitor can not help but feel.

Through the years, brass vases, candelabra, and a cross were given honoring those who loved the church and its people. Many have found God here, mothers and fathers have stood together to dedicate their newborn to God and His service here, and many have seen their loved ones laid to rest here, finding consolation in the words of the minister, the peace of the church, and the solace that comes from God alone. Young couples, full of love for each other, have made their vows to God before this altar. Memories! Oh, how precious they grow with the years!

On April 21, 1947, acts of unspeakable vandalism were perpetrated by degenerate persons with twisted, warped minds, inspired by Satan. Obscenities were scrawled on walls and communion tables; the pulpit Bible thrown to the floor and replaced by a beer can; hymn books and the church carpet ruined by fire.

God tests us in many ways, and this was a severe test for the Free Union congregation, but the members, although burdened by sorrow, did not despair. Sustained by their faith and love of God, the damages were repaired. The church endures and stands today as a witness to God and a witness to the unwavering faith of its members who have weathered so many trials.

The next century may bring other trials, but the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church will endure and will continue its tradition of service to God and the community where it stands!

MINISTERS WHO SERVED FREE UNION FWB CHURCH

Jack Goodwin also noted the ministers who served in the old church from 1896 to 1946. They were named as follows: Joseph Gaskill, D. B. Garner, J. C. Griffin, W. B. Everett, R. E. Tripp, John Sewell, John Alford, L. B. Weatherington, D. W. Wiggs, R. N. Hennett, Leon Styron, Garris Gaskill, Bruce Barrow.



Pastor Rev. Hillary Gaskill, Rev. Michael Warning and Rev. James McCandles wear red carnations at the Centennial Celebration.

Mr. Goodwin noted the ministers who served in the new church from 1947 to 1996. They were named as follow: A. L. Davidson, L. C. Smith, Herbert Bryan, John Floyd, Albert Keech, Edward Fordham, Charlie Rice, Clifton Styron, Ralph Lavimore, Alton Mason, Hillary Gaskins, James McCandless, Frank

Brinson, Lewis Forsythe, Michael Warning.

Four ministers have been ordained from Free Union: Simon Styron, Eric Gaskill, Kenneth Gaskill, Garris Gaskill.

Jack Goodwin also added a creative touch when he played the piano during the song celebration in the afternoon.

POEM: ONE HUNDRED YEARS AT FREE UNION FWB CHURCH

The Rev. Michael Warning's wife, Pepper Worthington, read her poem during the Centennial Celebration.

One church at Sea Level has reached
a hundred years
as tides and thickets of salt air
have wet our land, our church
our hearts.
We live in a rural pocket
where fishing, singing, visiting,
playing, believing, hoping
have never lost value
as our faith has quietly linked
our lives to our ancestors
and their beliefs that broke ground
a hundred years ago here.
In the wake of celebration and song
we recall our roots,
we cherish our heritage,
we respect our parents,
we praise our Lord
who brought us out of the
womb of time
into Carteret County
where faith happens,
love lives,
and our lives together
as Free Will Baptists
in our community at Free Union
glow with the victory of grace
in a world of change
across a hundred years.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION MESSAGE: POWER OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH STORMS

The Rev. Michael G. Warning turned to Mark 4:35–41: *And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

"I have had a chance to see storms recently. I come from Indiana. I've seen twisters, but I've never seen anything like the hurricanes here recently. You may wonder why this passage in Mark for this celebration. I felt that this passage speaks of the miracle power of Jesus Christ. This passage speaks of Jesus as one who truly could take care of the very elements that so often swallow us up," said the Rev. Warning.

"Jesus was disappointed that the disciples did not have sufficient faith. But this church has demonstrated faithfulness as it has come through a lot of hard, tough winds and storms. Storms bond a group of people together."

The Rev. Warning then spoke about Jesus in the boat. Jesus was exhausted. Jesus was a man of flesh and needed rest. "Our Lord slept in his exhaustion. He slept with a pillow. The pillow shows his intention of sleeping. But why did he sleep in the rear of the boat, in the stern area? Isn't that the area where the boat is steered? It is not Christ who is steering our ship?" he asked.

"Look at our church. We call the central part of the church the nave. The design of the church is really like a ship turned upside down. Truly we are in one boat together with Christ," he declared.

"Together, we are asking the love of God to preserve us. Together we are asking God to pilot us. Can God do that asleep? God never sleeps. But Jesus sleeps in the flesh. What is important? The storm itself. The storm nearly submerged the boat. How could Jesus sleep through it? Because Jesus trusted in the Father. Jesus trusted. Jesus asks us how is it that we have such little faith. Jesus asks us how is it that we are so fearful? Perhaps the fear itself propels us to the Lord."

The Rev. Warning stressed that God cared. He recalled a conversation that he had with David Hansley, his mentor. The Rev. Hansley had said that the very storms of hell could have prevailed against that ship, but that ship would not sink with Christ in it. The church in Christ will not sink because Christ is in the church. The Free Union Free Will Baptist Church burned in 1946 but was rebuilt in 1947.

"This church continues in love and in the grace of God, generation after generation. Storms have something to do with the history of the church. But Christ is in this church and no storm can sink it," he stressed.

The Rev. Warning told the story of John Wesley and his deep concern to serve the Lord. One night when Wesley was aboard the ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean, he was afraid. A storm arose, then Wesley heard the Moravains singing hymns at the top of their lungs. They were singing so loudly that he couldn't hear the wind. The Moravians invited John Wesley to sing with them. They told him the Lord was with them and they were not afraid.

Another story came to the Rev. Warning's mind. He recalled the story of the slave captain John Newton, a man who wanted to be an evil man. He was known for his terrible oaths. One night he found himself in a violent storm at sea. He swore that if he made it through this storm, then God help him. Newton wondered why he thought of God's help. That stormy night John Newton experienced a conversion. The rest of his life he proclaimed the love and grace of Jesus Christ. He also wrote the words to the song "Amazing Grace."

"Jesus has pulled all of us out of this terrible dark hole we are in. His presence in our life makes a difference. People could not believe the change in John Newton, from a vile captain who swore terrible oaths to a man who prayed with true humility."

"How can we be right with the Lord and yet be afraid? Fear grabs us by the throat because our bodies and our lives are frail. We are but as grass. Our only true and abiding strength is in Jesus Christ our Lord. We might marvel at 100 years here, but it has been many more years since our Lord walked upon the earth. But we are here today in his name. We are a part of an enduring reality. God has given us the blessing of Christ Jesus in our lives."

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

1997 has arrived and with it comes the anticipation of a new and exciting year. We are working on the new camp schedule and are hoping to be able to add a couple of weeks to the season in order to utilize the camp more fully.

At our last board meeting, we took a big leap of faith and decided that Aldric and Julia Gaskins would be able to better serve as managers if their positions were secured on a yearly basis instead of only six months out of the year.

The fall months have been very busy for Aldric and Julia Ann. They have had their hands full with regular maintenance plus all the extra work from Hurricanes' Bertha and Fran. One major improvement they have accomplished is to brighten up the lobby in the dorm building with a fresh coat of paint. We appreciate the time and energy they have given to help promote Camp Vandermere. Hopefully, we won't have as much last-minute work to do before camping season starts this year.

As we look at Camp Vandemere, we see a place that is being used by the Lord to win souls for His Kingdom. We see others re-dedicating their lives to His work. Young people are being trained to serve the Lord and dedicate their lives to His Kingdom. Through Camp Vandermere we see our church of tomorrow — we see our future leaders.

Please help us spread the good news about our camp by inviting our manager team, Aldric and Julia Gaskins, to come to your church and share with you about the work being done and our hopes and dreams for the camp. You may contact them by calling: 919–637–4949. Be prepared to catch some contagious enthusiasm!

Thank you, sometimes seems so inadequate to say for all the generous things you do for the camp. We have already had some who have responded to our request to contribute money for beds and mattresses. We are believing that God, through His people, is going to send the funds we need to complete this project. Several churches have had fund raisers and others have some planned.

If you would like more information about the camp, please feel free to contact us at any time. If we're not home, feel free to leave your name and phone number on our answering machine, and we will contact you as soon as possible.

A portion of Scripture (Malachi 3:10) says, "...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Submitted by: Rev. Owen Arthur
919–633–1185

Church Finance

Notice Of Annual Meeting Of Membership Holders To Be Held February 11, 1997

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place: **The First FWB Church of Greenville**
Greenville, North Carolina
Date: **February 11, 1997**
Time: **10:30 AM**

By order of the Board of Directors, William D. Thigpen, Secretary

The Reverend C. L. Patrick
A Patriarch
Among Original Free Will Baptists

A Tribute by W. Burkette Raper
Mount Olive, North Carolina

The life and ministry of C. L. Patrick was like a steeple. For more than half a century — from the commitment of his life to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour in 1940 until his death in December 1996 — he devoted his life to pointing people to God.

A farmer and Christian leader at Elm Grove Church in Pitt County, he responded to God's call to the ministry in 1946, and in the years that followed, he became one of the most successful pastors and evangelists among Original Free Will Baptists. He was also a highly respected and beloved denominational leader. In the second half of the Twentieth Century, I know of no minister who stood taller than C. L. Patrick.

When Mr. Patrick arrived at Free Union Church in 1948, the church facility was a simple frame building that dated many generations and worship services were held only one Sunday each month. When he left thirty years later, the Church had one of the most beautiful and complete physical plants among Original Free Will Baptists and a comprehensive ministry of services had been put in place. An evidence of the special place held in the hearts of those he served, his body lay in state at the altar of Free Union Church and representatives of the Church remained with the body throughout the night.

A loyal churchman, Mr. Patrick held offices at all levels of Free Will Baptist work, from moderator of his conference to president of the Convention. He became recognized statewide for his leadership in the development of the Layman's League. Wherever Free Will Baptists gathered, he was there. His demeanor was always one of service, not authority. A man of peace, he sought to build good will. In times of conflict, he was charitable to all but firm in his loyalty to the faith and heritage of his church. A gentle and humble servant of God, he earned the confidence of those who knew him, and his wisdom was sought by all of us, especially young ministers.

Mr. Patrick was also a faithful husband and a loving father. It was my good fortune to have known the Patrick family for more than fifty years, and during my many visits in their home I was always impressed with the Christian atmosphere and the loving relationship which held the members of the family in a close and meaningful relationship. My own life and ministry were enriched by being a part of the larger family.

Mr. Patrick's wife, Clara, with whom he shared fifty-nine happy years, was a full partner not only in the rearing of their four wonderful children but also in his ministry.

Undergirding both his life and his work was Mr. Patrick's faith in God. A devout Christian, his favorite verse of Scripture was, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," (Philippians 4:13).

Funeral Services

December 11, 1996, Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, North Carolina. Officiating ministers: Philip Wood, Snow Hill; Bruce Jones, Ayden; Willis Wilson, Winterville; and W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive.

The Reverend C. L. (Christopher Lafayette) Patrick



August 17, 1911 — December 9, 1996

EDUCATION
Ayden High School graduated with honors 1929
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill 1929–1931
Ministerial courses Atlantic Christian College 1947

MILITARY SERVICE
United States Marine Corps 1932–1936

FARMER: 1937–1946

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE
Accepted Christ as Saviour at Winterville Free Will Baptist Church in April 1940.
Taught Adult Sunday School Class at Elm Grove Church 1944–1946.
Licensed 1946 and Ordained to the Gospel Ministry April 20, 1947 by the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists.
Conducted over 300 revivals.
Performed and officated at hundreds of weddings and funerals.
Preached many Baccalaureate sermons.

CHURCH PASTORATES
Greenville, First, Pitt County 1946–1948
Free Union, Greene County 1948–1978
Pleasant Hill, Pitt County 1948–1949, 1988–1989
Dawson's Grove, Halifax County 1948–1949
Smith's New Home, Lenoir County 1948–1952
Rose Hill, Pitt County 1949–1950
Grimsley, Greene County 1950–1952
Bethany, Pitt County 1978–1987
White Oak Grove, Lenoir County 1989–1994

DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE
Moderator of the Central Conference.
Member of the Ordaining Council of the Central Conference.
Vice-President of North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists 1960–1962.
President of the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists 1962–64.
North Carolina State Convention Award for Distinguished Service.
Parliamentarian of both State Convention and Central Conference.
Four-time State Convention Speaker.

OTHER HONORS
Rural Minister of the Year for the State of North Carolina Progressive Farmer and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in July 1964.
Free Will Baptist Minister of the Year by the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Free Will Baptists in January 1970.

The Patrick Family

Marriage of C. L. Patrick to Clara Smith, October 12, 1937

Children: Becky P. and husband, Ray Clark of Snow Hill, NC; Barbara P. Herring of Kinston, NC; Sue P. and husband, Royce Hamm of Aurora, NC; Wayne and wife, Margene Patrick of Greensboro, NC

Grandchildren: LuRae C. Tyndall, Christy C. Turner, Charles T. Herring, Jr., Alan P. Herring, Heath C. Patrick, Taylor J. Patrick, Brett S. Patrick, Patrick L. Hamm, Dillon C. Hamm

Great Grandchildren: Christen Tyndall, Lindsey Tyndall, David Turner, Bethany Turner

Tribute to Mrs. Clara Smith Patrick:
(written by the Reverend C. L. Patrick, Nov. 20, 1992)

"It was largely by the witness and example of my wife that I was saved. For more than fifty-nine years, she has helped and encouraged me. She started and directed many Children's Choirs. She has led many to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for her. The Lord blessed us with four children; Becky Clark of Snow Hill, Barbara Herring of Kinston, Wayne Patrick of Greensboro, and Sue Hamm of Aurora. We have also been blessed with seven grandsons and two granddaughters and three great-granddaughters and one great-grandson. And best of all, all of our children are Christians."

The Clara Smith and C. L. Patrick Scholarship Endowment:

The Endowment was established by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick to express their love and appreciation to their parents and to provide scholarships at Mount Olive College for ministerial students. Contributions to the Fund may be made at any time by those who wish to express appreciation for the life and services of the Reverend and Mrs. Patrick. The principal of the Endowment is invested, and only the earnings are awarded as scholarships, thereby assuring a perpetual tribute to the Patricks. (Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.)

Family Address:
Mrs. Clara S. Patrick, Route 1, Box A-22, Snow Hill, NC 28580 (Telephone: 919–747–8877)

News from the Layman's League

Coming Events:

February 6 Executive Committee;
FWB Headquarters, Ayden — 7:00 PM

March 3 Central Conference Layman's League;
Kings Cross Roads FWB Church,
Supper —7:00 PM
Business —7:45 PM

May 3 Layman's League Singsperation
Juniper Chapel FWB Church,
Vanceboro, NC,
Supper — 6:00 PM
Sing — 7:00 PM

May 9 State Layman's League Meeting

June 6–7 Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat,
Camp Vandermere

Scenes from Central Conference Layman's Meeting, Gum Swamp FWB Church, December 2, 1996.





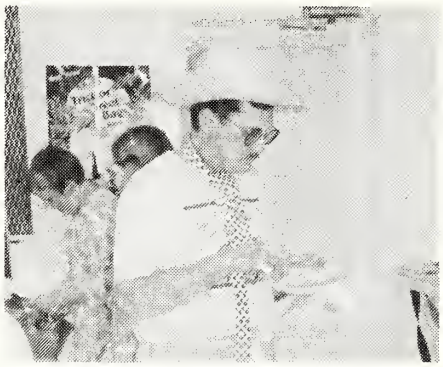
Octoberfest and Family Harvest Day

from Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church

Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church celebrated the autumn season with two events. The first was an Octoberfest held on October 31, in the church fellowship hall. Young and old enjoyed games, contests, cake walks, and bobbing for apples. Hot dogs, baked goods, candy, and treats were served. Approximately 70 people participated in the festivities.



Kim Miller dressed as a clown.



Travis Davis also as a clown.

A Family Harvest Day was held on November 9. Activities included hay rides, egg toss, balloon race, and three-legged sack race. Hot dogs, nachos and cheese, cookies, cotton candy, and popcorn were served.



Relay race (notice Pastor Ray Conner on the right!)



Everyone enjoyed the hay ride.

Smyrna New Year's Eve Service

Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church (Cape Fear Conference) celebrated the New Year with a black-eye pea supper followed by a music filled, candlelight testimonial and resolution worship service.

In the opening portion of the service, the pastor, Rev. Ronnie Hayes, introduced each deacon and his wife, who lit candles representing their duties and responsibilities to the church. Deacons of the church include chairman Ricky Raynor and his wife, Susan; Ellis Barefoot and his wife, Judy; Granville Denning and his wife, Peggy; Earl Parker and his wife, Ethel; Herman Raynor and his wife, Josephine; and Ray G. Smith and his wife, Helen.

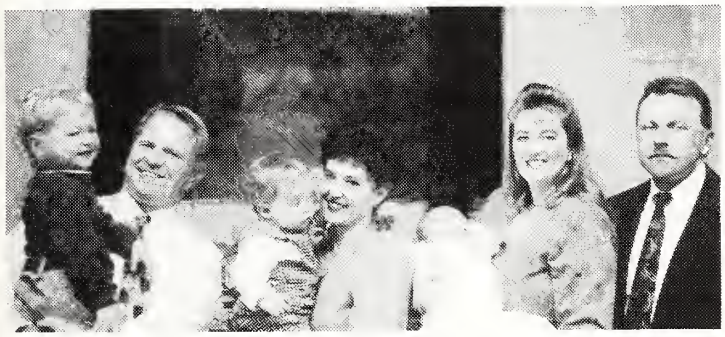
Chairman Raynor reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the pastor, who lit the center candle representing the Head of the Church — The Lord. The pastor and his wife, Frances, lit their individual candles.

A special music service by members of the adult choir was led by Marty Wood, along with guest, Danny Westbrook. During this service, those present, who wished, lit a candle representing their individual special "thank yous" or "requests" to God for the New Year.

Individual testimonies and/or resolutions were made during musical breaks, and at five minutes before midnight the congregation sang "Where He Leads Me" and gathered at the altar for a midnight prayer. A couple more special songs were sung, ending the service with a special arrangement of "Are You Washed in the Blood." The pastor closed the service with prayer.

Baby Dedication

At Spring Branch FWB Church



In October of 1996, Spring Branch had a baby dedication service. Pictured above are (L–R) Josh Cannon and Chris Cannon with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Cannon; Caroline Howard with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Lee Howard.

A Special Thanks

I wish to thank all the churches, auxiliaries, and Sunday schools of North Carolina and Georgia for all your love, prayers, and gifts. I love each of you so very much, and I continue to pray for you.

Mrs. E. C. Morris

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, letters, and prayers my way during the recent Holy Season.

God bless you!
Kaye Jones

Barnes Hill FWB Church Enjoys Great Year In 1996

The first Sunday in 1996 at Barnes Hill began with a Baptismal Service, and Pastor Dewey Boling challenged the members to work and pray and expect a great year. It seems that this set the tone for many wonderful things to happen. In January, we had a great Pioneer Club Pal Dinner with 86 taking part in enjoying food and games. In February, we had our Valentines Sweetheart Banquet with 46 couples. In March, part of the church went on a ski trip to Wintergreen. The youth enjoyed the trip very much and so did some of the older ones.

On Easter morning, 89 participated in our Sunrise Service and breakfast. That night the congregation enjoyed a wonderful play produced by Mrs. Pam Casey and other young ladies in our church, using youth and adults.

It seemed like the Lord just kept blessing everything the church did. We had more Baptized and received new members into our church who had been visiting our services.

We decided to remodel our sanctuary. We changed the ceiling in the main part of our sanctuary, in both wings, and in the choir loft, and installed new lights. We also painted the sanctuary white and put in a new sound system. Vinyl siding was added to the woodwork on both the church and fellowship hall. New doors were added on all outside entrances to the church and fellowship hall. This work was done through dedication of our people.

The Church organized an ensemble under the direction of Mr. Artie Pressley, and during October they put on their first program called "A Time To Remember." The program was enjoyed by all.

For almost six years the church has had a service every Thursday night at Nash Grove Manor Rest Home and the people there enjoy our church going every week.

December was a very busy month at Barnes Hill. The first Sunday night Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Johnson directed our annual Chrismon Service using most of our youth, and the program was enjoyed by all. On third Sunday night, Mr. Artie Pressley and the Ensemble put on a program called "All Through the Night" using all new Christmas hymns except the last song, *Silent Night*. Each Ensemble member lit a candle, making the Ensemble become a living Christmas tree. This was a beautiful service. Everyone enjoyed the program. On fourth Sunday night Mrs. Pam Casey directed our annual Christmas play with the help of other young ladies of the church, using the youth and adults in the program. It was a very heart touching program. After the program, everyone went to the fellowship hall and enjoyed refreshments and exchanging the gifts. Our fifth Sunday night sing, with different groups singing, was a very spiritual service. Most important, we had someone saved every Sunday in December. So thank God.

History was repeated as the Rev. Boling baptized seven members of our youth on the first Sunday in January of 1997 and received two other members by statement of faith on Sunday morning. Pray that God will continue to bless our church family all during the new year.

Sneads Ferry OFWB
Raising a Temple Campaign 1997
"...Let us rise up and build..."
Nehemiah 2:18

The greatest challenge facing our churches today is reaching the lost and all that accompanies that responsibility. Providing facilities for those people to come and worship, learn and grow in Jesus our Saviour, is a part of the challenge. With much prayer and God's opening doors, Sneads Ferry OFWB Church has chosen this time to stand and be counted as a refuge for the Children of God.

The church will be building in two very distinctive ways. One is to reach out in fields of ministry that, in the history of our church, we have never reached. Second is to build a facility that will better serve God and His people. God has provided a tremendous vision for the future, and we intend to be obedient.

Beginning this month, the church plans to raise thirty thousand dollars before May 1, 1997, to begin construction. We invite all church family and friends to attend our kick-off celebration on February 2, 1997, for a morning of worship and praise and "on-the-grounds dinner" for lunch. That afternoon several choirs from within the community will come and share in the celebration. So come and enjoy the fellowship, the worship and praise of our wonderful God together.

Sneads Ferry OFWB Church asks for OFWB prayer support for this project, and welcomes any financial support (Sneads Ferry OFWB Church Campaign `97, Mark Terwilliger, 709 Hall Lane, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460). If you have any questions, feel free to contact committee chairman Charles Matthews (910–327–2207) or pastor, the Rev. Tim Heath (910–327–2850).

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary voted at their fall meeting to change their 1997 Convention to Saturdays temporarily. The spring meeting will be March 15, 1997 at Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church, Sneads Ferry, NC, and the fall meeting will be on Saturday, September 20, 1997.

ATTENTION
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee has voted to invite gentlemen to the June Cragmont Woman's Conference, June 2–7, 1997

We of the Woman's Conference wish to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies.

A limited number of private accomodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.

The Conference includes round-trip travel by motorcoach, and room and meals while at Cragmont. The cost is $130.00 per person for the Conference.

Watch future issues of *The Free Will Baptist* for more information or call Teresa Ball at 919–524–4677.

Let Your Light Shine For Jesus!

The Central District Youth Fellowship will meet, at 7:30 PM on February 15, 1997, at King's Cross Roads OFWB Church. Any Central District YFA or AFC planning to participate in the Bible Bowl Competition in March must submit questions to Judy Jones (Rt. 3, Box 650B, Ayden, NC 28513; 919–746–6293) or Donna Tyson (Rt. 1, Box 273, Fountain, NC 27829; 919–749–6801) by February 15. A Bible Bowl study guide was mailed to each church's youth leader on December 15; copies of the rules can be obtained from Wes Boyd (919–735–3916). Young people are also encouraged to begin now to prepare for other competitions to take place at the March 15 meeting including lesson presentation, arts and crafts, Christian writing, and public speaking. The public speaking topic is "Soul Improvement — So You Will Improve!" based on Psalm 51:10. We look forward to seeing you on February 15 for a great time in the Lord.

State Youth Project 1996–97
Foreign Missions
$7,000

Purpose of Project:

To provide funding for the construction of a parsonage at the Lily of the Valley Free Will Baptist Church, Piedras Negras, Mexico. The parsonage will be built by the June and July Short-Term Teams to Mexico.

Importance of Project:

This project will provide a meaningful work experience for the summer teams and also a needed dwelling for the pastor and his family. It will give each youth group a sense of accomplishment and joy for meeting such a great need.

We encourage each youth group to work diligently toward this project.
We also encourage each church to support the youth in this project.

State Youth Convention — May 16–18, 1997
Mount Olive College

Funds will be presented to the Board of Foreign Missions during the Youth Convention.

CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE
MORNING STAR RETREAT

Speaker: Brenda Owens
April 4–6, 1997

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

If due to **health reasons**, you require downstairs accommodations, check here. _____

Please list the names of anyone you would like to room with:

_____

_____

Complete and mail this form, along with a $20.00 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530, 919–524–4677.

There will be a balance of $35.00 due upon arrival at Cragmont.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

THE REV. BRUCE BARROW TO BE HONORED

The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow will be honored on May 30, 1997, at the Convention's first Leadership Endowment Dinner. Mr. Barrow has been selected because of the significant impact he has made on the Convention and the leadership he has provided. During his years of ministry, he has served the Convention, various ministry boards, denominational institutions, and Original Free Will Baptist churches.

The time and place of the dinner will be announced. Gifts may be given to the Endowment in his honor. For more information, contact the Rev. W. Scott Sowers, executive administrator, by phoning (919) 746-4963; or by writing to him at the following address: Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

OFWBs PARTICIPATE IN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The dates were January 9 and 10; the place was Winston-Salem; John C. Maxwell was the presenter; and excitement, motivation, encouragement, and electricity were in the air. Eldon Brock, Roney Bunn, Jr., Freddie Edwards, Leon Grubbs, James Gurganus, David C. Hansley, Stephen Hadder, Calvin Heath, Henry Jones, Al Markuson, Greg Mills, Walt Tyndall, Ray Wells, Aubrey Williamson, and I spent two days participating in Leadership '97.

These days were "not just [about] ideas, but principles"; the time was "not just a break, [it was] a time to be renewed—not alone but in community." The time spent together offered all of us the opportunity to learn, to brainstorm, to grow; it also yielded time for fellowship, prayer, and learning to appreciate each other.

Spring Stretch—

A Day to Work-out Heart, Mind, and "Soles"

Activities Include...
"A Walk" for the Convention
Workshops and Seminars
Games and Activities for All Ages
A Closing Worship Experience

Workshop Leaders Include...
George Reser -- Stewardship
and
Donna Brandt -- Youth Ministry

Mount Olive College Campus - April 5, 1997

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FORTHCOMING

As part of my responsibilities as Executive Administrator, I represent Original Free Will Baptists among other denominations. At present, I am involved in work I feel to be of interest to every Free Will Baptist: The Greenville, NC, area churches are working with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in planning a crusade, hopefully in 1998. I am serving on the steering committee as outreach chairman. All churches and pastors will be notified about an important meeting in reference to a crusade within a few days. Please keep the work of this committee in your prayers.

MRS. L. N. FORBES PASSES

Mrs. Johnsie Ramona Artis Forbes, known to many as the wife of Bishop Forbes, passed away on Tuesday, December 31, 1996. Funeral services were held on Monday, January 6, 1997, at the L. N. Forbes Tabernacle in Wilson, NC. Burial was in the Original Free Will Baptist Cemetery.

Bishop and Mrs. Forbes were married on November 6, 1988, and made their home in East Orange, NJ.

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

Keep The Faith

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart,"
(Isaiah 7:4a, New International Version.)

Sooner or later life confronts each of us with experiences for which we know that our wisdom and strength are inadequate. In these moments of crisis, there are certain alternatives.

We can become discouraged, depressed and feel crushed, but this response only compounds our problem.

Another alternative is to turn to family or friends. We all need love and understanding and the security which comes from warm human relationships. This approach, however, may only point to a deeper problem for those senior citizens who do not have a family or who feel that no one really cares. There is no pain comparable to loneliness.

Fortunately, the Christian faith offers a third alternative: we can look beyond ourselves to the Ultimate Power and Wisdom of the universe. At some time in life we all face problems for which we need help beyond what we can do for ourselves or even beyond what others can do for us.

Experiences Which Threaten Us

A financial crisis can rob us of a sense of security and confront us with the possibility of losing our home, car, farm or place of business. For millions of Americans, only one paycheck stands between them and a major crisis.

Human relationships are sometimes fragile and are easily broken. Even after a long marriage, a spouse can "want out." In the settling of an estate, life-long hostile feelings can develop between family members. Sometimes when we have done our best, it is not enough. At other times, we may do wrong and discover that it is beyond our power to recall the results.

With no advanced warning, the care for a family member with a long term and even terminal illness can fall to us. A stroke, cancer or Alzheimer's disease can mean that life, as we have known it, is over. Our own health can break at any age, but especially in our senior years, and we can face an illness that undermines our ability for independent living. The illness can even be life-threatening.

Death can take from us a spouse, or close friend with whom our life is interwoven, and leave us with the feeling that life is no longer worth living.

The Power of Faith

In the history of the human race, it was out of these kinds of experiences that religion was born. At the heart of all religions is the search for a Power and Wisdom beyond our own. It was out of this need that the Bible was written. From beginning to end, it is the story of how God intervenes to save us.

The Prophet Isaiah records how King Ahaz of Judah was at the point of panic when two neighboring countries took up arms against him. "The hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind," (Isaiah 7:2b, NIV), he wrote. What advice did God give Ahaz?

> "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart... If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (Isaiah 7:4a, 9, NIV).

These words are sound advice to all of us in whatever crises we might face. There are some problems in life for which there is no answer; there is only a solution, and that solution is faith. If we do not stand firm in our faith, we will not stand at all. The power of faith is that it carries us beyond ourselves to the Ultimate Power of the universe who can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

God assures us that "those who hope in me will not be disappointed," (Isaiah 49:23, NIV). If we will keep the faith, it will keep us. No winter is so long that spring will not come. God cannot be defeated!

1997 (Vol. 2, No. 4) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College. 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

by Marice DeBruhl

We are living in a fast-paced, rapidly changing world that places more demands on the individual and family unit than ever before. Time has become our most precious commodity, and in the midst of stress, turmoil, and the daily pressures of living, we look to the church to provide the climate that will enable us to define our faith, to neutralize the negative influences in our lives, and to dispense peace and well-being through a meaningful worship experience.

The needs of the congregation of the 90s is much more complex and demanding than those of the congregation of the 50s, and if the church is going to meet these needs in a meaningful and effective way, it must be staffed by pastors who are committed, equipped, and motivated to use their gifts to the best possible advantage. The effectiveness of a church in meeting the needs of its people rest largely in the hands of its pastor, his/her commitment, leadership skills, and ability to motivate his people to live their faith. The pastor becomes the earthly role model, the one who lives and moves among us, and who, through the living of personal faith, provides the stimulus that enables us to keep our lives on track.

We, as Free Will Baptists, embrace a doctrine that is Biblically sound and yet intensely practical. We are rich in history and heritage, have been blessed with great men of the faith who have been pioneers in establishing churches, and who have provided leadership and direction as we have forged ahead and established our identity as a people. We can, with pride, echo the words of the Psalmist, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage" (Psalm 16:6).

We take pride in our past. However, we must live in the present and plan for the future if we are to remain strong and to grow as a church. The needs of our people are perhaps greater than ever before, and if they are to be met, our churches must be led by pastors who are strong spiritual leaders, able administrators, good organizers, and are equipped to provide strong and decisive leadership. We must, as a church, define our strengths and weaknesses in this area and develop a plan that will address this concern.

I believe we are a church rapidly approaching crisis proportions with regard to pastoral leadership. My basis for making this statement is my experience in serving on the pulpit committee of my church. I first served in this capacity a decade ago and again ten years later assumed the same responsibility. I was alarmed at the difference ten years had made in the availability of pastors who were gifted and trained in strategic areas of ministry. I have given this matter considerable thought and I am convinced that we, as a people, must assume a large portion of the blame for this dilemma. We have not, in many instances, kept pace with the changing financial needs of the American family and thus have not adequately provided for the financial needs of our pastors. A young man who is serious with regard to his calling and prepares himself to serve competently is equally cognizant of his responsibility as the primary financial provider for his family. He, therefore, is apt to choose some other avenue of Christian ministry, other than the pastorate, that will enable him to answer God's call and at the same time meet the needs of his family. Perhaps this situation could be addressed by a committee of our State Convention that could provide congregations with counsel in regards to salary and benefit packages for ministers, thus enabling them to stay abreast of the changing needs of our society.

With regard to pastoral leadership, first of all I believe a call to preach is a call to prepare and that the motivation to adequately prepare must not be left to the ministerial candidate but should be provided by ordination boards of our various conferences. I believe our educational standards should be higher, that we should expect and require more of our candidates for the ministry, and that by not requiring them to adequately prepare we are, in fact, encouraging them to be less than they are capable — through diligent study and scholarship — of becoming. The loser here becomes the congregation being served.

Secondly, I believe the minister who provides quality leadership must place top priority on his personal relationship with the Lord and must make time in his schedule for a daily time of meditation and prayer. He must draw strength from his relationship with God if he is to meet the demands of his calling. He should not be willing to forfeit this for lesser concerns.

I believe a third attribute of an effective pastor is

found in having the ability to live a balanced life. This is a difficult goal for clergy and laity alike, but is a necessary ingredient for a successful life and vocation. There must be time for study, for family, for meeting the needs of ministry and for recreation and rest. I believe God provided our role model here in the creation narrative and that to "burnout" for God is not particularly spiritual. There should also be balance in the various areas of his ministry.

In fulfilling the role of an administrator, a pastor must have an overview of the entire structure of the church and must motivate and encourage departmental heads and board chairmen to fulfill their duties and responsibilities effectively. The pastor should not take on these responibilities personally but should motivate, encourage, and provide counsel when needed. Organizational skills are very important in this realm as well as proper time management, and personal discipline. Again, the pastor is the role model.

Lastly, I feel that in order for a pastor to provide effective leadership for the church, he/she must take advantage of each and every opportunity available to improve skills, sharpen intellect, and stay in touch with the times. In the business world one must keep abreast of the latest computer technology, in the world of medicine a physician must continuously study and be aware of new treatment procedures and medications, in the legal profession an attorney must constantly be aware of new laws and statutes and how they affect clients, and there should be continuous growth in the ministry as well. One should study, learn, and grow until one dies. This is especially important in the area of counseling. The moral dilemma of this particular era demands that our ministers be adequately trained to meet the counseling needs of their congregations. Our denomination provides many helpful seminars and programs designed to aid our pastors in all areas of ministerial growth and yet many times these programs are sparsely attended. The denomination can *provide* but the pastor must *attend* or the congregation must *encourage* the pastor to take advantage of these opportunities for growth.

These suggestions represent the thoughts and feelings of one lay person who is deeply committed to seeing our church be all that it can be, who is immensely grateful to the many fine pastors who provide effective leadership to their congregations, and who is becoming increasingly alarmed that their number is diminishing. If we are to be an effective church tomorrow, we must address this problem today. The crisis of leadership is here.

Biographical Information

Marice DeBruhl

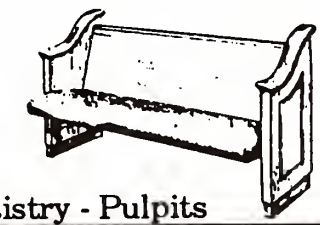
Church: Member of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church in New Bern. Served as Clerk, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chairman, and Secretary of the Official Board. Teaches an adult Sunday school class. Has sung in the Chancel Choir.

OFWB Work: Served on numerous committees of the OFWB Convention. Served two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation. Contributor to the Woman's Auxiliary program book, *Devotion*.

Other Services: An accountant and executive secretary for a fraternal organization. Past president of the Twilight Toastmasters Club.

Leisure Activities: Reading and Walking

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Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Gene A. Getz. *Nehemiah.* Foreword by Dr. Bruce H. Wilkinson. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.

Introduction

Nehemiah emerges as one of the Old Testament's most tenacious leaders. As the cupbearer for King Artazerxes, King of Persia, Nehemiah demonstrated trustworthiness because he was the one to taste the king's wine before the king drank. Gene Getz gives us a forceful picture of Nehemiah's *leadership qualities* which may teach us all today specific *leadership traits* worth emulating.

A Man of Prayer

Whenever Nehemiah felt praise or despair, he "lifted his heart upward and acknowledged God's unfathomable greatness" (8). He called upon God as Yahweh, perceived God as all powerful and rested his spirit in that power. When God seemed absent as the Jews suffered in captivity, Nehemiah prayed and fasted, remembered and called upon God. When the Jews disappointed Nehemiah, he prayed. When Nehemiah was graced with a murderous plot by Sanballat and his cohorts, he prayed. When Nehemiah was exhausted, he prayed. When Nehemiah was openly accused of corrupt motives, he prayed. Nehemiah was a *man of prayer* — a *leadership trait* worth emulating.

A Man of Wisdom

Nehemiah prepared his homework to try to get King Artaxerxes to agree to rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. What wisdom did Nehemiah demonstrate in getting the approval of King Artaxerxes?

Nehemiah fasted and prayed for four months, and then carefully prepared his words. He told King Artaxerxes that he was sad, although "it was against Persian law for a servant ever to show sadness in the king's presence" (23). But the king responded to Nehemiah's sadness because Nehemiah wisely said, "Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?" (See Nehemiah 5:3).

King Artaxerxes was moved. He gave Nehemiah official letters to cross borders and order military officers to escort him safely.

A Man Who Could Coordinate People

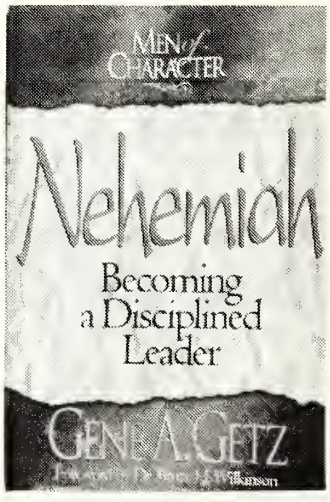
Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to lead the rebuilding of the wall. His leadership success was rooted in his ability to assign "specific people to specific areas that related to their vocations" (53). He solicited the help of "all ages and from all walks of life to participate in rebuilding the wall" (55). In coordinating the people, Nehemiah did not assume a position of privilege for himself.

A Man With A Goal

Nehemiah had a goal to rebuild the wall. He was able to resist the intrigues of the enemy and the complaints of the Jews. He managed to get workers to do double duty. When half the project was done, exhaustion set in.

How could Nehemiah lead his people to *complete the goal?* First, he managed to get the Jews to arm themselves with weapons in order to defend themselves. He got a trumpeter to walk with him to protect areas. He stressed to the Jews the divine nature of the goal.

And the Jews "completed the wall in an incredible fifty-two days" (98).



Conclusion

Nehemiah demonstrated strong *leadership traits:* (1) prayer, (2) wisdom, (3) powers of coordination, (4) a vision of a goal. Perhaps the leadership spirit of Nehemiah could wash over us today and remind us of the power of Yahweh and the grace of Jesus.

***Nehemiah* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore:**
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson

A Note Of Thanks...

For the past three months, I have had the pleasure of serving part-time as interim editor of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation. This time has given me the opportunity to work with dozens of Original Free Will Baptists who write for the literature program and who submit information for the *Free Will Baptist.* I have also, on many occasions, needed advice and information in order to fulfill my responsibilities. Without fail, I have received prompt and cheerful assistance from everyone I have approached within the Press, from the other Ministries, and from individuals within our denomination. I thank each of you.

At this point, the Free Will Baptist Press is pleased to announce that the Reverend C. H. Overman has agreed to serve as Editor beginning in February. The Reverend Overman is well known throughout the denomination, having pastored various churches and having served in leadership positions of the Convention of the OFWB. Many readers will also remember that the Reverend Overman's experiences include ten years serving as Editor of the Free Will Baptist Press, experience which will be invaluable for both the Press and the denomination. The Reverend C. H. Overman recounts this experience and offers his feelings on returning in the paragraphs below.

Sheryll Eason Wood

A Note Of Introduction...

My editorship with the Free Will Baptist Press began in 1957. At that time I was serving as pastor of Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC. I had graduated from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) in the spring of 1957. Sometime near the time of graduation, I stopped by the Press. The Reverend J. O. Fort was editor at that time. In conversation with him, he asked if I might be interested in employment as assistant editor. I wasn't sure about it to begin with. In order to explore the possibility, I was assigned the writing of my first Sunday school quarterly. *The Bible Student,* which I did during the summer months. In the fall, as additional exploration as to whether the work was for me or not, I spent three days a week for several weeks at the Press. By the end of the year, I decided that the Lord was leading me into the work under the arrangements as specified by Brother Fort.

Thus, in January of 1958, I began as assistant editor. I resigned as pastor of Spring Branch church and, along with my wife and son, moved to Ayden. My years as assistant editor were a learning experience, and Brother Fort was an excellent teacher. In 1960 I became editor, and Brother Fort became manager. Sometime later, Brother Fort returned to his home in south Georgia, and the Reverend N. Bruce Barrow was hired as manager, replacing Brother Fort. In 1962, I resigned to accept the full-time pastorate of First Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC. In 1963, I returned as editor, remaining until January of 1969.

One highlight of those latter years was moving into the new Press building, which is the present building on North Lee Street in Ayden. I was the first editor to be situated in the new editor's office. And now, after twenty-eight years, I find myself going back in the same office and with a certain amount of uncertainties.

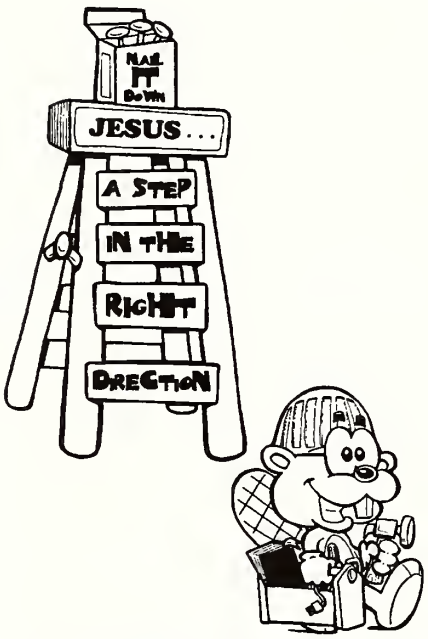
I am anticipating my return which begins on February 3. I know many changes have taken place such as the methods of printing. Changes have also occurred within our denomination, and there are new challenges. I return with the conviction that this is the Lord's will for me, and I pledge my best to this ministry which is an important part of our denomination. I express my appreciation to those who encouraged me. I covet your prayers, understanding, and support as I assume the editorship of the Free Will Baptist Press once again.

C. H. Overman

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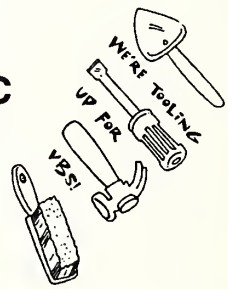


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The Free Will Baptist

March 1997



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NEXT MONTH

April is Home Missions and Evangelism Month

March is Foreign Missions Month

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist.* The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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History Lives On At Rose of Sharon

by Peggy Bailey

It is a fact. History bores many people to tears. They seem to think events, people and things of the past have no meaning today, nor in the future everyone is so busily planning. They have never been more wrong about anything. For how can you build anything without a foundation, or complete any journey without awareness of where and how the trip began.

Think about the old courthouse that's being restored in downtown Williamston, the fort at Rainbow Banks near Hamilton, the Hope plantation in Bertie County, Tryon Palace in New Bern, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and many other buildings too numerous to name that would have been demolished without an appreciation of history. All of these places have been brought back from oblivion and carefully restored . After hundreds of years they can still teach lessons through sight, touch, and ambience.

Though these historical places and buildings are very important, they are far different than Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church, which sprang from the roots of Christianity. This facility is fortunate in that it never has been totally abandoned during its 100 year history, and its concepts have not been allowed to die.

In the past century there have been times when it would have been easy to let it fold. The depression years in which there was little money to maintain its existence, along with two world wars, took their toll. And for a while during the 40s there was little spiritual interest as society improved financially.

However, life flickered on when a small number refused to quit. They nourished the church through the hard times, and despite Sundays when attendance was less than 10 and the offerings dropped to a few cents each service, they carried on. Constant prayer by the remaining few, combined with hard work and faith, kept the doors open.

Visions of a future congregation teaming with families growing in worship led to the establishment of a Sunday school and this proved to be the catalyst needed to thrive during the past 62 years.

Yes, it is a fact that history will always bore a lot of people. They will continue to perceive historical accounts as meaningless events in the past that have little purpose. Today we are living such an opulent lifestyle, with our splendid homes, luxurious cars, boats, fine clothes and the world at our fingertips through the internet, world wide web, and supersonic air travel, that we often fail to understand how they all came about.

We are so busy planning our future — trips to the beach, to the mountains, a little jaunt overseas, and "when I retire," that we are impatient when anyone talks about yesterday. Sarcasm for those who cherish old traditions and precious relics is expressed with a shrug of the shoulders or a condescending smile. The most bold even tell you, "I don't want to hear it!"

History is dead, you hear over and over... or perhaps you have said it yourself. The rationale is that some things of the past are often ugly and best forgotten, and we can only hope they will never be resurrected. That position may have merit. However, you have to be aware of problems and how they developed in order to prevent their happening again. And if past efforts and decisions have succeeded in offering hope and better conditions, there are lessons there too.

We all know that things which once lived and died have little present value. Such is not the case with Jesus Christ and His legacy. Christianity is not a thing and the church He established is not a club, social order, or an organization. It is an organism and that means it is alive...yesterday, today and on and on into eternity.

As a part of that organism, Rose of Sharon has remained alive and viable for 100 years. Though we are in a rural area surrounded by farmland with limited housing developments, the church continues to hold its own. Many in our congregation are the descendants of those early members who gave their time, talents and supplies to build the original building in which we still worship.

Though it has been remodeled and expanded many times through the years, the original structure still stands, hidden beneath covers of asbestos siding, bricks and several layers of roofing. The foundation of this structure is still the same, the ideals upon which it was established are the same, and the purpose for which we are gathered today is the same. That is to do as Moses instructed his followers...to tell those coming after us what a mighty God we serve. Each generation is to preserve to the best of our abilities the heritage of Christianity.

By burying this capsule, filled with mementos of the past and challenges for the future, we are exemplifying our faith in a living Saviour. And if He tarries for another 20 years, there will be many of you standing in this sacred area as the earth is removed and the capsule is lifted from its place and opened. You will eagerly examine the recorded dreams of some of us who are no longer here. Don't waste your time in grieving, for they have relocated to a better home. Just assume their visions and put them to work. You must keep the church a haven for God's people.

Today we are burying this capsule containing visual memories and written expectations. We are also passing the torch to a growing, watchful generation emerging from the ranks; As we do this our hearts are full of both humility and pride for what was and what is to come.

Time Capsule Marks End of 5-year Celebration

Established in 1896, Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church turned 100 years old last year with many activities and services geared toward recognition of this historic event.

Five years of planning and observing special activities surrounding the 100 year anniversary of the central district church located in Martin County culminated on December 29. The Centennial Committee completed their responsibilities by assisting the congregation in the burial of a time capsule after regular morning worship services.

The capsule contains specially prepared videos of various celebrations held during the centennial year. Particular emphasis focused on recordings of the Homecoming Service and Dinner on the ground the second Sunday in October, following the fall revival. The capsule was buried in the church cemetery and is marked by a stone specifying an opening date exactly twenty years in the future.

The five-years preceding the anniversary were used to recognize former pastors and their wives. Bruce and Alice Barrow, Hilda Sasser, Ruth Lupton, Hattie Lou Futrell, and Reverend Charlie Overton were honored with certificates of appreciation and plaques during annual Homecoming services in October. Also honored were Reverend Frank Harrison and Gary Bailey, two men from the congregation who were ordained as ministers and are now serving the denomination in prominent leadership roles. Photographs of these occasions were placed in the capsule.

Other recorded distinguished accomplishments, such as establishing a Sunday school in the early 30s, continuing expansion of the facilities, the building of a parsonage and becoming full-time after years of part-time service were spotlighted during the five year celebration.

Memoirs of these celebrations of the past were placed in the time capsule prepared by Phil Hodges, Superintendent of the Sunday school. Included were snapshots taken during the 1996 Bible school, current Sunday school members, and individual letters from church members. Personal ambitions, as well as aspirations for the church were included as challenges for the future.

Serving on the Centennial Committee were Peggy Bailey, chairman; Annie Cratt, secretary; E. D. Harrison, historian; Louvenia Peaks, and Reverend Joey Williams, pastor.



Children watch as the Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church time capsule, containing mementos and challenges, is buried on December 29, 1996. Children assisting Deacon John Albert Williams are, left to right, Caroline Hodges, Brian Hodges, Adam Cratt, Daniel Cratt, Laurin Cowin and Rachel Hodges



Members of the Centennial Committee, the Sunday School Superintendent, and Pastor Joey Williams prepare for the burial of the time capsule, ending a five-year effort to increase the knowledge of the Rose of Sharon FWB church's 100 year history in the community of Bear Grass, located in Martin County. They are left to right, Peggy Bailey, Chairman; Annie Cratt, secretary; E. D. Harrison, Historian; Phil Hodges, Sunday School Superintendent; and the Reverend Joey Williams,pastor. Not present was committee member Louvenia Peaks.

Spring Stretch—

A Day to Work-out Heart, Mind, and "Soles"

Excitement is building! In a matter of a few months, the largest gathering of Original Free Will Baptists ever assembled for a Convention happening could be realized. The event has been named "Spring Stretch" and it will be "a day to work-out hearts, minds, and soles!" The date is April 5, 1997 and the site will be the Mount Olive College campus, Mount Olive, NC.

The day's activities will begin at 10 AM with a walk wherein participants will raise funds for the Convention. (Registration for the walk has been scheduled for 9–9:55 AM.) All ages are encouraged to participate. The younger walkers can take 5 laps, while those who are up to the test accept the 5K challenge (that's 3.1 miles)! Walkers are asked to get pledges of monetary support, with proceeds going toward Convention activities and expenditures. The goal for the day is $30,000+. And prizes will be given to participants.

After a time to "cool down" and lunch, there will be seminars, workshops, and activities for all ages. The "Starters," those ages 6–12, will have activities and age-appropriate classes. The "Sprinters," ages 11–18, can select from various exciting and challenging training sessions and events.

The "Anchors," those ages 16 and up, will have a plethora of interesting topics from which to choose. The various ministries of the Convention are helping to provide seminars and speakers, and participants will be able to attend three different sessions.

"Trainers," youth leaders, will be invited to participate in basic and advanced training sessions which will be taught by Donna Brandt. Ms. Brandt's vocational experience includes being an elementary school teacher, teacher of junior and senior high behavior-disordered students, youth director, associate in youth ministry, and director of special events for Group Publishing. Five years ago, she founded Reach Ministries, along with two other individuals. (Reach conducts workcamps for junior and senior high students. Donna coordinated and directed the workcamps, and wrote all the devotional and program materials.) She recently joined the ministry team at Columbia City Church of God and serves as director of youth ministries.

"Coaches," pastors, will be guided in stewardship training by George Reser. Pastors who participate in this training and who apply the principles taught raise the level of stewardship in their congregation on the average of at least 20%. Pastor of Columbia City Church of God, Columbia City, Indiana, George and his wife, Jane, served as missionaries to Haiti for six years. He has studied extensively in the areas of stewardship and leadership. George is no stranger to Original Free Will Baptists, having spoken at the Convention in years past.

A workshop celebration will conclude the day's activities. This time of workship will be in celebration of all that God has done!

The Rev. Philip Wood, pastor of Free Union Church, Greene County, is chairman of the Spring Stretch Committee. Assisting him on the committee are Nancy Boykin, Kip Godwin, Angela Honeycutt, Tracy McCoy, Stephen Prescott, Becky Jo Sumner, Clair Taylor, and Carl Wood. Countless other Original Free Will Baptists are joining with this group to help to make the day a success.

Anyone having questions should contact Philip Wood or W. Scott Sowers at (919) 746–4963.

Spring Stretch 1997 will be a time to work-out your heart, mind, and "soles."

We'll look to see you there!

Questions & Answers

There are always questions about events, especially when they are being planned for the very first time. We have tried to answer some of the most frequently asked questions below:

Q What is "Spring Stretch?"

A "Spring Stretch" is a day that has been planned by the Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists to bring together people of all ages from churches across the denomination. The first part of the day involves a "sponsored walk" for the benefit of the Convention. The afternoon has been reserved for workshops and planned activities for children, young people, and adults. Special training opportunities have been scheduled for pastors and youth leaders. "Spring Stretch" was included in the Executive Committee's report to the 1996 Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, and information about "Spring Stretch" was included in the Executive Administrator's report. Both reports were approved by the Convention.

Q What will the money raised be used for?

A The money raised will go into the general fund of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The additional funding will make it possible for the Convention to provide services, materials, resources, and

information for Original Free Will Baptist churches and pastors. The current level of support places a severe limitation on what the Convention can do to help churches and pastors benefit from being a part of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. Almost everyone agrees that we need to provide more help for the local church — it takes financial support to make that possible.

Q ***How will walkers obtain sponsors?***

A Walkers will ask friends, family, and associates to make a contribution to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in recognition of his or her participation in the walk. Contributions are made on the basis of participation, not the distance walked. Any contributions received at the time of the request should be noted on the appropriate form and turned in to the church chairman. Sponsors who pledge ten or more dollars not collected before the walk will receive verification of the walker's participation, a thank you note for sponsoring the walker, and an envelope to return their pledge from Convention personnel. This method provides the assurance of participation by the walker and that the money is received by the Convention. Walkers are not required to handle as much money, and the difficult task of collecting is not required. (Others who have used this method report over 95% return of pledges with this single friendly procedure.)

Q ***My church already supports the Convention through our budget. Why do we need to do more?***

A It is true that a number of churches support the Convention at an appropriate level; however, there are churches which give below the level needed and some that do not give at all. Sometimes the church itself is struggling to meet her own budget, and others are not aware of the real needs of the Convention. There are some that do not see the need of the Convention and/or the office of the Executive Administrator; and therefore, choose not to support the Convention or give only a small amount of support. The walk portion of the day was designed to make it possible for all churches — big and small, flourishing and struggling — to help support the Convention. The walk provides a fun way to get everybody involved.

Q ***Is a fund raiser appropriate for the denomination?***

A As Original Free Will Baptists, we believe that tithing is God's financial plan for supporting the church (*The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptist...*, page 53). We believe that churches are the most appropriate source of funding for the work of the denomination. There is no doubt that if church members practiced tithing, each church would have sufficient funds to meet all of her needs and could give generously to all the work that we do together as a denomination. Unfortunately, stewardship has not been taught as a high priority among Original Free Will Baptists; therefore, many members are not supporting their church and the church, in turn, finds it difficult to support the work of the denomination. That is the reason for the stewardship seminar for pastors!

Q ***What will be the benefit of participating in "Spring Stretch?"***

A The day has not been designed just to benefit the Convention; every participant should reap rewards for being a part of "Spring Stretch."

1. The day could well be one of the largest gatherings of Original Free Will Baptists for a single event ever. The fellowship of meeting and spending time together will be of great value. People from all walks of life will join together for a day of fun, learning, and worship.
2. The afternoon has specifically been planned to offer learning opportunities for everyone. While everyone is invited to participate in the walk, doing so is not required to join in the afternoon training events. Adults will have the option of participating in three workshops, with ten or more choices each session. Special presenters who have "been there and done that" are being brought in to provide special training for pastors and youth leaders.
3. The day will conclude with a worship celebration. We will come together as a people and join our hands and hearts in offering praise and thanksgiving to God. We will sing together, pray together, and grow together. We will be reminded that the body of Christ is not confined to our local church and that God is bigger than all of us!
4. We will be stretched mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually (Luke 2:52).

For answers to other questions, please feel free to call Scott Sowers at (919) 746–4963.

Spring Stretch Schedule

<table>
<tr><th>Time</th><th>Anchors
(Age 16 and up)</th><th>Starters
(Age 6–12)</th><th>Sprinters
(Age 11–18)</th><th>Trainers
(Youth Leaders)</th><th>Coaches
(Pastors Only)</th></tr>
<tr><td>9 – 9:55</td><td colspan="5" rowspan="3">Registration

Walk

Lunch
Served by the Layman's League (Tickets to be purchased at registration)</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>1:00</td><td rowspan="3">Session 1</td><td rowspan="2">Growing in the Lord</td><td rowspan="8">Gotta Know It

You Gotta Sing It

You Gotta Play It

You Gotta Share It</td><td rowspan="5">Basic Training</td><td rowspan="5">Stewardship 101</td></tr>
<tr><td>1:15</td></tr>
<tr><td>1:30</td><td rowspan="2">Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>1:45</td><td>Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>2:00</td><td rowspan="3">Session 2</td><td rowspan="2">Music</td></tr>
<tr><td>2:15</td></tr>
<tr><td>2:30</td><td rowspan="4">Organized Play</td><td>Break</td><td>Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>2:45</td><td>Break</td><td rowspan="3">Advanced Training</td><td rowspan="3">Stewardship 201</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:00</td><td rowspan="3">Session 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:15</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:30</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:45</td><td colspan="5" rowspan="2">Break
Workshop Celebration</td></tr>
<tr><td>4:00</td></tr>
</table>

*Children under the age of six may participate with Starters or with parents/grandparents.

Adults may choose seminars from those provided by denominational ministries, the Woman's Auxiliary, and others on various topics that include: Debt Management and Other Financial Strategies, The Joy and Power of Prayer, Creative Programming from Scratch, Dealing with Stress, Sharing Your Faith, The Aging Parent: Getting Organized, Is There an Adolescent in the House..., Worship, How to Study the Bible, and Music. (Topics are "working titles" and the actual name of the seminar may change.) The Free Will Baptist Press will provide a bookstore and resource center throughout the day.

Young people will be able to participate in clinics offered by college coaches and players during the time designated as "Gotta Play It!" Others may choose activities that place less emphasis on athletics.

Saturday, April 5, 1997 **Mount Olive College Campus**

1996 Founders' Day Message

at Mount Olive College

by Michael Pelt

I want to thank the administration of the College for the invitation to speak on this occasion of Founders' Day in 1996. I count it a privilege to be given a place on the program at this celebration of the forty-fifth anniversary of the chartering of Mount Olive College on November 27, 1951.

What is the meaning and purpose of Founders' Day? The answer to that question may not be obvious to everyone in this audience today. Briefly, this is the day in each calendar year when we pause to remember those whose vision and dedication made possible the establishment of this College. Since it was almost a half century ago, some of these persons are still living but others are no longer with us. Today we honor both the living and the dead for their vision, their labors, and their sacrifices that launched the beginning of this institution and we celebrate their achievements. In addition, because this is the week of Thanksgiving, it is also an occasion to give thanks to Almighty God who has sustained this effort by providing the means through which His people could rise up and build. It is fitting that all of us here today, members of the board of trustees, the administration, the faculty, the staff, students, alumni, and friends of this College should honor those who had the courage and the faith to believe that the Free Will Baptist Church needed a college in this region and that it was possible to build it.

In order that we may be able to appreciate the present situation as it pertains to the College, it would be helpful to review those events which brought it into being. Not all of us are aware that Free Will Baptists had established a school at the turn of this century and that it later was upgraded to collegiate status, only to be forced to close its doors in 1929. This earlier venture in higher education has shaken the faith of many in that generation. The added effects of the "great depression" of the 1930s further delayed any lingering hope that this denomination might be able to sponsor a college that would meet the needs of the church as well as other people in this region of our state. Things were beginning to look better for most people at the half century mark. Still, when the Convention voted to open a junior college at its annual session in September 1951, there was not much enthusiasm for such an undertaking. The financial resources were simply not at hand to acquire property and begin a building program and the only facilities that could be used were at Cragmont near Black Mountain, which was far removed from the center of most Free Will Baptist churches in this state.

In spite of this a beginning was made at Cragmont in 1952 but it was impractical to continue that alternative beyond the first year. Only a total of twelve students were enrolled that year. The Rev. Lloyd Vernon, who served as president and taught some of the courses offered, saw the wisdom of locating in the eastern part of the state. In September 1953 the Convention approved a recommendation that an abandoned public school building in the town of Mount Olive be bought at a cost of $25,000. A board of directors was created to be responsible for the management and operation of the College, consisting of the following persons: David W. Hansley, M. L. Johnson, R. N. Hinnant, J. W. Alford, C. J. Harris, N. B. Barrow, Earl Glenn, R. H. Jackson, and A. B. Chandler. Only two of these men are living today — Mr. Barrow and Mr. Glenn. The property in Mount Olive was acquired but the building was in need of major repairs before it could be used. During the 1953–54 school year a few night classes in Bible and related subjects were held while repairs on the building were being made. Meanwhile, steps were taken to begin a collegiate program in September 1954. The Rev. David W. Hansley, chairman of the board, played a leading role in preparing the building for occupancy and in choosing those who would lead the fledgling institution. In the spring of 1954 the Rev. James A. Evans was employed as public relations director. He would undertake to raise funds and recruit the first class of students. In July 1954 Chairman Hansley paid a visit to the Rev. W. Burkette Raper to ask if he would accept the position of president of Mount Allen Junior College. After prayerful consideration of this offer and consultation with Miss Rose, Raper agreed to accept the offer. It would be an understatement to say that this was a bold decision on his part. At the time he was serving as pastor of Hull Road Church in Greene County and part-time promotional director for the Free Will Baptist State Convention. He resigned the latter post and continued his preaching and pastoral work at Hull Road during his first year as president of the College.

The task of recruiting the faculty and overseeing preparations for the opening of the school term in September fell upon the new president. He had assumed this demanding role at the age of twenty-six and was resolved to meet the challenge it offered. In addition to raising funds through speaking and writing at every opportunity and carrying the burden of administrative responsibilities, he also taught the courses in Bible and attended to dozens of minor details in the operation of the College.

The 1954–55 school year began with 22 students drawn from eastern North Carolina. Gifts to the College that year totaled $33,689.56 in addition to contributions of food, materials, labor, supplies, and other gifts in kind. Dr. C. C. Henderson, a local physician, made the first gift to the College endowment fund in the form of stock in the Mount Olive Pickle Company, valued at $5,000. Expenditures for general operation that year were $61,070.

During the next few years

significant progress was made in the development of the College. The name of the College was changed to Mount Olive Junior College in 1956 in recognition of its present location and plans were made to purchase an additional 50 acres of land for future development north of the downtown campus. New faculty members were added and enrollment increased to more than 100 students in the 1957–58 school year. In January 1958 the Convention of Churches held a special session on the campus. The main object of this special session was to focus on the needs and opportunities for Christian higher education through the program at Mount Olive and to launch a three-year campaign for the operation and development of the College with the goal of $504,000. At this session the Convention also approved a motion "endorsing the concept that Mount Olive Junior College be made a citadel for liberal arts education in keeping with the highest Christian and academic standards." This action was both an affirmation of the original purpose of the founders and a response to those who identified themselves with a philosophy which held that only a Bible college education could meet the needs of the denomination. Also, in 1958 the College received accreditation by the North Carolina College Conference and immediately took the necessary steps toward meeting the requirements for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which goal was accomplished in December 1960.

It was in the late 1950s that the board of trustees and the administration of the College were confronted with open opposition to its philosophy and program of education. These attacks were mounted by a group of young men who because of the kind of education they had received, felt that any college sponsored by Free Will Baptists must conform to a militant fundamentalist theological perspective and the strictest code of social conduct. Their attacks were aimed at undermining confidence in the College and its personnel. The administration, however, was determined not to be distracted by these opponents. Time will not allow us during this hour to dwell on these matters. I can only suggest that you read my book on the history of our denomination.

Construction of facilities on the new campus began in 1964 and the first buildings — Henderson and the women's dorms — were completed and ready for occupancy in September 1965. The Moye Library was completed in 1968 and Grantham Hall in 1970. Other buildings were added as the years passed: Rodgers Chapel in 1974, College Hall in 1984, and so on. But equally important was the development of the curriculum and new degree programs, following the decision in 1979 to make Mount Olive College a four year college. In order to advance to senior college status, new faculty members were added and as new programs were developed, it was necessary to add faculty with proper credentials in these fields of study. Likewise, as the College opened learning centers at locations beyond this campus, at Seymour Johnson, New Bern, and Wilmington, more qualified staff and faculty had to be recruited.

Today as we reflect on the past and consider the present circumstances of the College with all the changes that have occurred during these forty-five years and the many advantages that both students and faculty enjoy that earlier members of the college family could only dream about, it is important to be aware of whence we have come and the journey that has brought us to the present hour. The passage has never been smooth sailing. There have been sunny days and there has been stormy weather at times. In all we have had abundant reasons to be thankful. Today as we reflect on the blessings of God and the goodwill of the many friends of this College, I trust that we will be ever grateful for the vision and the labors that brought this College into being and for all those persons who in their daily work on this campus or in other places beyond this campus helped to transform that vision into reality.

But the fulfillment of the vision is not yet complete. There is much more work to be done and that work is being carried on every day, in the classrooms, in offices, on the grounds, in homes and businesses which support the College, and in the public arena. While engaged in that work it is essential that we not lose sight of our mission as a college. We are not simply building an institution, one that we hope will continue for generations to come. Our primary mission today, as in the past, is to provide quality education for students in a community of learning made up of persons committed to Christian truth and values that transcend and yet permeate our ordinary life experiences. From the beginning this College has tried to maintain a partnership between the church and higher education, in the belief that both can benefit from this partnership. We believe that the sponsoring denomination which took the initiative to establish this College and has given generously to sustain it needed and still needs the College and that the College would not have survived without the support provided by the church. If that partnership is to be a healthy one, then both the church and the College need to understand each other and the fact that each has its own distinctive mission. Yet the church and the College share many things in common, not the least of which is the total development of the students who enroll here. Both the College and the church see our students as whole persons who have minds, bodies, and spirits, all of which must be nurtured and developed to the highest potential of each individual and that all this must culminate in the building of a strong and healthy community. The College endeavors to provide a setting in which the cultivation of the mind, the health of the body, the nurture of the spirit, and the building of community is possible. Some members of the faculty and staff may see their role here in relation to one or another of these needs. But in truth we all share some responsibility for the total development of students on this campus. Even in small matters, such as how to conduct oneself in a chapel service, or in

a musical concert, or in a classroom setting, or in the cafeteria, or on the playing field, we want to help students develop the qualities of mature and responsible citizenship. In human relationships we want our students to learn respect for others and compassion for those who suffer or are disadvantaged. As to personal character, we want them to learn the virtues of honesty, self-discipline, and integrity. We hope that while they are here they will devote less time to trivial matters which add nothing to their lives simply because they are engaged in all kinds of learning experiences that will increase their knowledge and appreciation of their heritage and the very best in our culture. We want them to be involved in learning activities which help to develop their critical faculties, their social consciousness, and their spiritual growth.

Not all of these values can be delivered in classroom lectures or assigned readings and papers. They have to be modeled by caring persons who want to see students become all that they can be so that when they leave this College and seek their place in the larger world, they will carry something with them that will enrich their lives beyond measure and make them a blessing to all those whose lives are touched by their influence. The values they embrace as students here will adorn their lives forever and will be a precious gift to be shared with this generation and generations yet to come.

Those of us who are serving or have served on the faculty and staff of this College have the privilege of passing on to this generation of students such values as I have alluded to. If we are faithful to the mission of the College and faithful to the best that we have received, then we need not fear for the future of our graduates and we can take some satisfaction in the knowledge that we have not only met the requirements of a job but that we have done what God has called us to do. If we do our work well, then what was begun back in 1951 will continue and will flourish for many, many years to come.

On The Move With Layman's League

ATTENTION ALL LAYMEN!

The State Layman's League is sponsoring a Singspiration on May 3, 1997 at Juniper Chapel OFWB Church near Vanceboro, NC. Supper will begin at 6:00 PM followed by singing at 7:00 PM. We need groups or individuals to sing. If you would like to sing, please contact Elmer Harrell at 747–2894. Thank you and may God bless you.

We need your help. The Layman's League has been asked to serve lunch at "Spring Stretch" on April 5, 1997 at Mount Olive College. We need volunteers to cook and we need your financial help as well. If you would like to help cook please contact Elmer Harrell at 747–2894. If you would like to make a donation toward this worthy project, please send your donation to Elmer Harrell, 502 SE Third Street, Snow Hill, NC 28580. Thank you and may God bless you.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE DATES

March 3	Central Conference Layman's League Kings Cross Road FWB Church 7:00 PM Supper; 7:45 PM Business
March 6	Layman's League Promotional Board Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden — 7:00 PM
April 3	Layman's League Executive Board Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden — 7:00 PM
April 5	Spring Stretch Mount Olive College
April 19	All Day Clean-up Camp Vandemere
April 26	Fish Fry Camp Vandemere, 5–7 PM
May 3	Layman's League Singspiration Juniper Chapel FWB Church, Vanceboro, NC 6:00 PM Supper, 7:00 PM Sing Contact Elmer Harrell if you would like to sing (747–2894)
May 9	State Layman's League Meeting (Need a Host Church)
June 6–7	Spiritual Life Retreat Camp Vandemere

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

Let Us Be Generous

by Julia Pate Gaskins

Generosity is surely one of the marks of a Christian. Usually when we think of being generous we think of a liberal gift of money. Generosity is this and much more. Sometimes a person may be liberal in giving to some cause, but not have a generous feeling in his heart. In this instance all of the joy of giving is lost.

What is generosity? Mr. Webster says it is being liberal in spirit or act. In other words it is the act of doing more than is expected of us. When we tithe we do that which is expected of us. When we go beyond that we will be called generous. We have a great love for our own families, but when we love our enemies we are being generous.

At Camp Vandemere we are seeing the results of Christian people who are giving. You are responding to our cries for help. The Free Will Baptist denomination should be very proud and thankful because God has provided this camp for us.

Our losses from the hurricanes last summer were many, but the Bible tells us that He will supply all of our needs. We all know that He will do exactly what He promised. He has shown us that we have to depend on Him. This is a great opportunity for us to be used of God and to come together as a denomination and show the Christian love that we have for each other and for Camp Vandemere.

It will soon be time for our camping season to begin for 1997. Our fine Christian directors are already making plans for their special weeks. These people lovingly give of themselves to teach our children and grandchildren about God. Bible study is planned each day. Also there is music time, play time, craft time, and many other activities for our campers.

Our directors are not the only people who are willing to give of their time. There are many counselors who come and serve the Lord. We thank God for them.

Camp Vandemere is not just for young people. It is for *all* of us. We have a week for our women, and a time for our men. Make your plans now to join us this spring and summer for a week or a weekend.

Everything that we have comes from God. As Christians we should be generous to others because God has been so giving to us. A great Christian giver was asked the question, "How can you give so much?" He answered, "As I shovel out, God shovels in. And God uses a bigger shovel than I do."

As Aldric and I have worked at the camp trying to repair the damages from the hurricanes, I have at times felt that we just could not get it all done. I have been discouraged and have voiced my doubt. You know, sometimes the difficulties of life are great and Satan is always around to discourage us.

God is on the side of those who serve Him. He is stronger than any hardships that we have to face. I feel ashamed that I sometimes forget that God and one more are always the majority.

There is still more work to be done before we can start the camping season. There are still needs to be met. We need a swimming pool and beds and mattresses. God has already supplied a new freezer, money to finish another one of our rooms in the lodge, a case of light bulbs and gifts of money to be used as needed. Friends have been down to help us. God has put it in the hearts of His people to do these things.

We thank each of you for all that you have done, and we thank God for all of you. You are really coming through in this crisis. I firmly believe that the true meaning of generosity is *"Free Will Baptist People."*

Please continue to pray for Camp Vandemere and the Board of Directors as they make decisions concerning the camp. Also please continue giving of yourselves.

God strongly admonishes us in Matthew 10:8, "freely ye have received, freely give."

CAMP VANDEMERE REVIVAL

Memorial FWB Church

Gray Road, Chocowinity, NC

March 10–14, 1997

7:45 PM each evening

Monday	**Rev. Joe Ratcliff**
Tuesday	**Rev. Mike Scott**
Wednesday	**Rev. Doug Randall**
Thursday	**Rev. Joel Cannon**
Friday	**Rev. Bryant Hines**

All offerings go to Camp Vandemere

Special singing each evening

Pastor — Rev. Owen Arthur

OBEDIENT TO THE WORD OF GOD

by Zacarias I. Perocillo



God revealed to us a methodology which is enabling us to grow rapidly: *Cell Group Method Of Evangelism*. We are doing this method, and we are now experiencing growth in many of our churches in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Obedience to the Word of God, especially in bringing the Good News to the unsaved, not only requires hard work day and night in a highly urbanized city like Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, but in order to make a timing when the gospel is to be preached, more than hard work in season or out of season is required. The *witness* should make frequent visits, if possible *daily*, even just for a five minute follow-up to establish *responsible friendship* that such contact might be brought to the cell; this *requires sacrifices*. In fact, not just sacrifices are required, but to be a *witness* may mean to be a martyr. This is not only for church workers but for every Christian worthy of the name "Christian." It is an order by the Lord Jesus Christ to every Christian *to witness* to the unsaved. Truly this is not an easy task.

So, this program of *New Method of Evangelism: Cell Group*, is the program that we have just begun in the Visayas. Every member of the Cell is encouraged to become a sponsor and to look for candidates to establish responsible friendships. The candidate may be a relative, neighbor, friend, or new acquaintance. The sponsor will spend six to eight months of developing this care group which results in responsible friendship. The candidate, by this length of time will be able to see a difference between a worldly friendship and *Christian Friendship*. A sponsor-candidate openness is also established. The moment the gospel is shared, the candidate will never be at a loss because he has someone to identify with, not only Jesus but a *Christian Friend* as well.

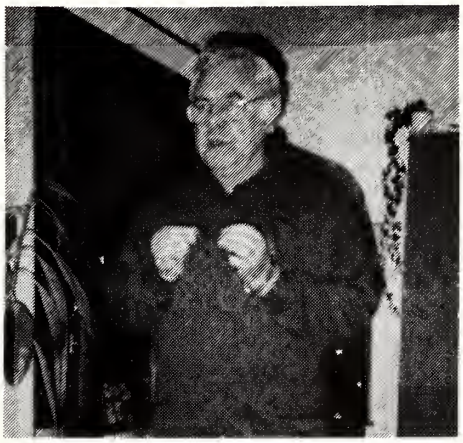
This is not only the first test to Pastor and Cell Leaders, but above all for those people involved, to hunger for empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Also, it will test whether the Pastor is really *called* and *sent* by God to the ministry. Another reason is, that when true discipleship is employed, those who are suited to proceed to the Bible College can be well identified.

When we retain people, pastors who are presumed to be called and sent by God to the ministry, the tendency is this. These people will also bring in students to the Bible College who just took advantage of the privilege. These may well result in simply just throwing our efforts and other resources including our lives, which we put on the line, into the sea. For really, as we supervise the work in the Moroland where terrorism is a natural occurrence, when we cross the stormy seas in reaching these places, we are actually putting our lives on the line, *our lives being our number, our investment.* I do believe that this is the world's best investment and thus, this method of evangelism thru hard work is a must for everyone of us for the glory of God. He is a victorious God. Therefore with Him, we too are always victorious.

March is
Foreign Missions Month.
Don't forget
Annual World Missions Conference, March 9th
Annual Telethon, March 23rd

CHRISTMAS AND RENEWAL

by William van der Plas



The last months of 1996 were very special in a way. Many people may say: "How many trials did you have?" It began with a severe kidney crisis, caused by kidney stones. Lydia went to help Tezdjan, she fell down and broke her right leg.

In that time the water stopped, the outside pipes froze, and we went three weeks without water. Many days, also on Christmas we had no electricity. The wind blew strong from the North and brought extreme low temperatures. The natural gas froze in the bottles, from Christmas until New Year.

Then I thought back in history about the situation of Joseph and Mary. Can we really imagine how it was? A birth in a stable; away from the conveniences of the town of Bethlehem. They had for sure no electricity, there may have been a little water and some firewood. In such a situation the King of Glory was born. How badly do we simplify this special birth with our romantic ways of celebration? What was left of all the plans which we had for Christmas and New Year? All plans were like a balloon that blew slowly empty as if it got a sting with a needle.

But thanks to God something more important was left to all of us. There is the assurance that Jesus Christ did come to the world. Immanuel, God with us. In spite of everything, our joy could be heard upstairs. Our friends, Dr. Peter Vulkov, came down to see what made us so happy. We received strength not to sit down in agony, but to take the things as they came to us.

Jesus was born in a stable. Two careful parents watched their special child whom they named Jesus, Saviour. Shepherds were sent to them by the angels. No smell of frying pans, no flashing lights, but the fragrance of God's presence to the world. New Life was bringing Light in a dark space in a stable near Bethlehem.

The situation, we were in, brought us closer to the richest gift of God to the world. It drew us nearer to the Messiah, to our Saviour.

The children and the youth brought us mineral water, yogurt, and some apples. Tezdjan supplied us daily with some water in yerry cans. Others brought some bread. From Heaven we received the assurance that Jesus was born to the whole world and that He is with us, that He is with the children and with the youth, with all the people with whom we share our lives. He lives in our hearts.

The weather made it impossible to celebrate on Christmas Day, it was postponed to New Year's Day. A joyful crowd of children and youth met on January 1, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. In the past it was all called "New Years" celebrations, that was indoctrinated by the communists. Now we celebrated Christmas on New Years Day.

In Jesus a new time has begun, the New Year to the world is in Jesus Christ and that is everlasting. He poured out the Divine Spirit of Life, by which we are able to celebrate God's Love to the world.

The fire of Pentecost warms us. The water of the Stable gives us Life-energy, the power to praise, and renewal of expectations in His Service.

BIBLE SCHOOL FOR NEW PASTORS

by Antonio Escobar

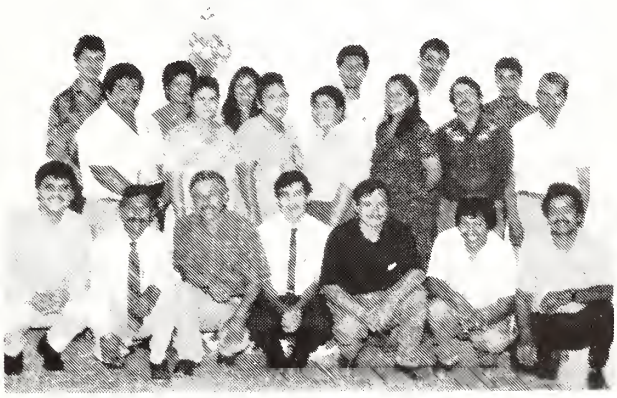
Everardo Martinez

The churches and pastors in Mexico are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity He has given them to open a Bible School Program for the training of new pastors and teachers. Those who are already pastoring also attend the school in order to do a greater work in their local church. The Bible School began on May 18, 1996 in Piedras Negras, Coah.

These brothers and sisters are active members of our churches. They all come with the purpose of equipping themselves to serve the Lord better. This enables us to start mission points so that the work of the Lord will grow in Mexico. This training will also help them make disciples of the new converts.

We ask for your prayers for these pastors and teachers and for those who will come in the future to prepare themselves to serve the Lord.

I wish to thank the Board of Foreign Missions and our brother Harold Jones for his help to make this Bible School possible.

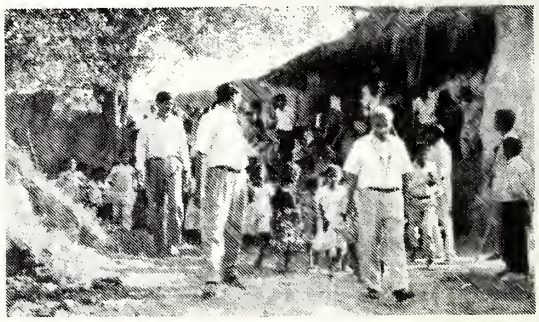


Bible School for New Pastors.

NOW IN INDIA

by Dr. E.M. Lall

India's strategic position in Asia and the world at large is worth considering. India's total population is 936 million. When population density is compared, even China comes only second to India. 270 persons per square mile is the population density in India, whereas China's population density is only 120 persons per square mile. India's population growth records about 2% per year, while China is only 1.4%. Thus India deserves much prayer and attention.



3000 Tribes and People Groups
1650 Mother Tongues (Languages)
No Bible in 1604 Mother Tongues
Complete Bible is translated only into 46 Mother Tongues.
New Testaments alone translated into 37 Mother Tongues.
631,149 villages, 80% of total populations live in villages.
25 States and 7 Union Territories
44,640 babies are born every day.
25% of the world's unreached people groups live in India.
936 million — Total Population

When compared with the United States, India's population is 3 times more, but area wise India is only one third the size of the United States.

India is a big potential country. Its people are mostly peace loving. The cost of living is low in comparison to other countries in the World. Production cost is lower. How to use these potential capacities for God is a matter which requires serious thought.



A Village Prayer Meeting

The lamentation of the Ethiopian Eunuch had been reverberating throughout India for centuries, "How can I understand Scripture unless someone explains it to me?" Though India is a developing country, the Christian Community is basically poor. It is because of two reasons. The first reason is that, when the Foreign Missionaries came to India they preached that the Lord Jesus Christ came for the poor and so most of the poor people accepted Christ and embraced Christianity. The second reason is that those who accepted Christ were kicked out of their homes and they were deprived of their family share of properties. They had no place to live. The subsequent generations naturally became financially poor. In India population growth in 1996 was 1.92% and the Christian growth was 4.62% which is the highest Christian growth rate in the World. India, therefore needs a challenge.

Two-thirds of Indian villagers live within an average income of less than $20 a month. The absolute poor in India are 317 million people. The population below the poverty line is 478 million, which accounts for 51.1% of the total population.

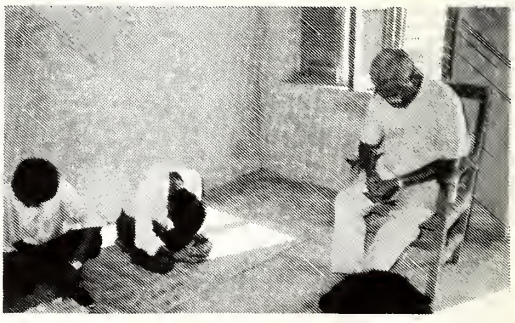
The main stream of Indian non-Christian population is Hindus, and are idolaters. They believe in Polytheism. They form more than 72% of Indian population.

To make the Bible understandable to the big mass of Hindus is a big challenge. Every verse of the Bible needs explanation for them.

India definitely needs your prayer and support, India's Dalits (unprivileged) the original native people of India were made slaves, 3500 years ago by the Aryan (Hindu) invaders. To this day the Dalits (who are untouchable) are virtual slaves.

According to official records every day 3 Dalit women are raped, 2 Dalits are murdered and 2 Dalit huts are burnt down for no other reason than that they are Dalits.

Out of the believed 18–24 million Christians in India, 60% are Dalits. However, the moment a Dalit becomes a Christian he loses all the government reservation for being a Dalit like study scholarships, jobs, free land, free house, loans, etc. This law (which calls all Dalits as Hindus) was enacted surreptitiously in 1951 by Hindu fundamentalists so that more Dalits may not become Christians.



The surrender to the Lord in Nepal.

Mark This Date On Your Calendar

Sunday, March 9, 1997

And Plan To Attend The

Annual World Missions Conference

Sponsored by the BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Theme: The Fruit of the Gospel and the Unfinished Task

Place: Winterville Free Will Baptist Church
(915 E. Cooper Street, Winterville, NC)

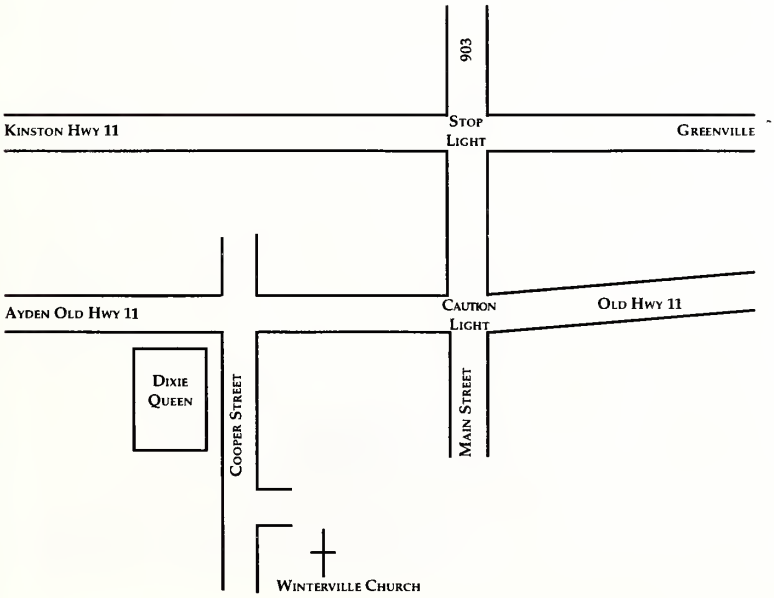
Time:
5:00 PM Opening Service

6:00 PM Light snack provided with the generous help of the host church.

7:00 PM Closing Service
Special Music by host church



Speaker: The Rev. Harold Stevens
Harold and Josephine Stevens served in South Africa from 1948 through 1975. Their primary work was among the Zulu people. Since 1975, the Rev. Stevens has channeled his energy toward assisting missionaries in their own land. He has had the joy of seeing more than 200 enter the field. He is presently serving with "The Harvesters." He is an excellent speaker and authority on world missions. You will be blessed by attending.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU. PRAY DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
P .O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513–0039
Phone: 919–746–4963

Foreign Missions
Annual Telethon

Sunday, March 23, 1997

Theme: The Fruit of the Gospel and the Unfinished Task

Colossians 1:3–6; Mark 16:15

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions reminds us of the fruit we have seen on our fields, but also helps us to see the unfinished task. Millions still live in darkness, waiting for the Light.

Goal 1997: A total of $125,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can be reached easily if we but look to the fields, to the unfinished task and trust the Lord in prayer for His supply.

The evangelization of the world is the most important task the Lord assigned to the Church. When the Church places this task first, the heart of God rejoices and the Church flourishes.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

Call in your special offering between **1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial (919) 746–4963**. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will show your joy in the fruit and determination to finish the task.

A CHEERFUL GIVER IS BLESSED OF GOD.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

MARCH 23, 1997

The fruit of prayer is revival.
The impact of revival is the vision and energy to complete the unfinished task.

Earnest prayer is essential for revival, for prayer reveals our true desire.

Will Free Will Baptists experience revival? Yes! When? When we desire with our whole heart and fervently unite in concerted prayer for revival, IT WILL COME!

WILL IT BE ON MARCH 23, 1997?
YOU HAVE THE ANSWER.

Prayer Goal March 23, 1997: All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival.
LET US PRAY!

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
P .O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513–0039
Phone: 919–746–4963

Give your youth an opportunity to experience revival.

This summer there are six youth conferences scheduled to accommodate ages that range from 9–18. These conferences all share common goals. 1) To proclaim the gospel to any young person who may not know Christ. 2) To teach the Word of God so that those who are already Christians may grow in their spiritual lives. 3) To show the youth of our day that recreation and times of fun do exist in the life of the Christian.

Each and every day the young people who attend a conference are involved in Bible classes each morning, recreation in the afternoon, worship services at night. These are very basic but much needed attributes of the Christian life. At home in their normal routine sometimes people forget to include these things in their lives. It is our fervent prayer that those attending a youth conference at Cragmont will be grounded in their faith making them stronger Christians when they leave their mountaintop experiences.

We who are involved in the church and the Christian life talk about revival and how much revival is needed in today's world. Revival is exactly what happens to the young people who come to Cragmont. Cragmont is a place where God is allowed the chance to break in upon an individual whose world that is filled many other things, the cares of school, home, etc. At Cragmont these cares and worries can be put aside for a short time, giving more time to turn to God.

Cragmont is but an extension of all the churches of our denomination. Your young people can benefit from a week at Cragmont. Listed are all the weeks of summer conferences along with the person you should contact for registration procedures. Give your youth a week of revival. Sign up now while there is plenty of room.

Young people go to camp for many things: band, cheerleading, basketball, etc. Sign them up for a camp that will help them with their spiritual lives.

CRAGMONT!

Cragmont Club

The Cragmont Club was established to help us have a healthier cash flow. Each year the club is responsible for bringing in approximately $30,000, much of which will arrive on a monthly time schedule. While the club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits, we hope that these benefits are not the reason for joining. It is our hope that the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to keep alive an important ministry of the denomination.

The Plan

For $10 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent to a weekend at Cragmont at no cost.

Rules

- Benefits may not be used during regularly scheduled conferences.
- Benefits may not be carried over into another year.
- Those persons living under your roof is our definition of immediate family.
- Meals will not be prepared unless there are 15 or more people staying at Cragmont.
- You may use benefits if you are traveling in the area while on vacation.
- You may use benefits while at Cragmont during a church retreat.

To join the Cragmont Club make out your first check for $10 to Cragmont. Each month thereafter a reminder is sent to joggle your memory to send in your next $10.

Summer Conference Schedule

Morning Star
April 4–6, 1997
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

June Woman's Aux. Conference
June 2–7, 1997
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Minister's Conference
June 9–12, 1997
Philip Boykin
55 Lee's Chapel Church Road
Dunn, NC 28334

Christian Cadet Conference
June 16–21, 1997
Gary Bailey
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)
June 23–28, 1997
Scott and Janie Sowers
Post Office Box 639
Bell Arthur, NC 27811

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)
June 30–July 5, 1997
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II Conference
July 7–12, 1997
Chris Singleton
Post Office Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I Conference
July 14–19, 1997
Bryant Hines
Post Office Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Young People's Bible Conference
July 21–26, 1997
Jesse Fulcher
144 Holly Springs Road
Newport, NC 28570

August Woman's Aux. Conference
July 28–August 2, 1997
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

PROFILE

EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM

Home Missions and Evangelism is **WHAT?**

It is people

It is people telling, loving, sharing, and guiding the people who need telling, loving, sharing with, and guiding.

Evangelization must not end with the proclamation of the gospel. New converts must have the opportunity to grow in faith and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. They must also have the opportunity to live out their faith in fellowship and community with other believers. This is the reason that the emphasis is on a comprehensive plan of evangelization that includes all elements for building up and supporting the church.

Evangelization is the primary goal, but creating new churches and expanding existing churches is a fruit of evangelization. Therefore, community and regional evangelization are overall objectives. *Home Missions and Evangelism* is committed to serving the whole church in taking the gospel to people in a manner which will eventually involve them in the ministry of loving and sharing the Grace of God with other people. It means to create a chain with each one winning another one, perpetually.

There are more than 80 million people in America today who do not claim any association with any Christian group. Most of these people are not in social and cultural units that are being reached by the currently established churches. Now, if we Original Free Will Baptists are going to seriously respond to God's call to ministry, and if we think that these 80 million should be won to Jesus Christ, we must plant more churches. This is our assignment as a church — to go and make disciples for Jesus Christ among all people within the United States. As has been said before, God has put missions on our doorsteps. The challenge thus presented will test our faithfulness in our commitment to Him.

Home Missions and Evangelism is the department of the **Convention of Original Free Will Baptists** charged with this ministry. Our program includes:

Home Missions
- Home Missions/ Church Planting
- Ethnic Missions
- Migrant Missions (Spanish Speaking)
- Death Missions
- Harvest 2000

Evangelism
- Church growth
- Faith Sharing
- Discipleship (AIM — Association in Ministry)
- Mobile Ministry
- Youth and Family Ministries
- TAAC (Telling Americans about Christ)

A new and promising program in our Mobile Ministry is TLC — Touching Lives Corps; this new program will provide a new avenue for individual involvement. TAAC our new program to provide for Crusade Evangelism, Youth Evangelism Crusades, Local Church Evangelistic Services and Evangelism Training in Local Churches will give a special avenue of service for the ordained minister who feels a special call as an evangelist and provide direction for our churches.

It remains, however, that the most important person in all this is **YOU!** Your concern, your prayers, and your financial support.

THE GIFT OF REAL PROPERTY



The gift of real property and building was made by Pepper Worthington (center) and Michael Gauker Warning (far right) to the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists on January 8, 1997. This property in Calypso, North Carolina, has a value of $48,500. The plans are to rennovate the building so it can be used for the Board's newest endeavor in developing a Spanish mission church for Original Free Will Baptists. For more information call the Executive Director, David Charles Hansley (far left) at 746-4963 or in Kinston at 523–8697.

Growth for the Smaller Church

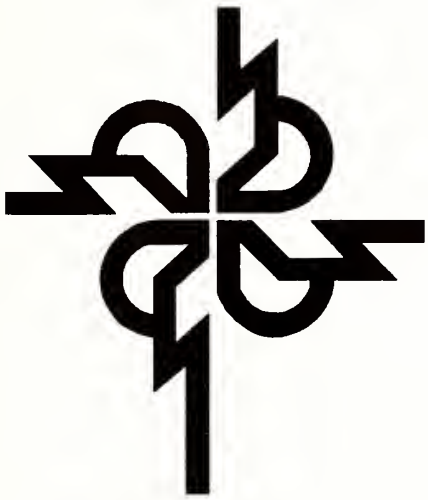
A video study series to help your leaders focus on growth

A video study kit that is ideal for leaders in any church of 140 or less in worship. This study is an effective way to stimulate lay leaders' thinking and desire to be more intentional in outreach and minsitry through their smaller sized congregation.

This kit features keynote presentations from a recent *How to Grow A Small Church* conference including sessions by Ken Chafin, Win Arn, Ray Sells, Robert Orr and others.

Topics include "Creating and Environment that Allows for Growth," "Effective Assimilation of Newcomers," "10 Basics for Growth in the Smaller Church," "Attracting and Holding the Unchurched," "Ten Strengths of the Smaller Church," "Five Steps for Intentionalizing the 'Webs' Principle," "Slaying the Financial Dragon," and "Effective Preaching." The kit includes discussion guide and reproducible notes for use as a small group and/or leadership study.

Growth for the Small Church can be obtained by contacting Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists, Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513, Telephone (919) 746–4963.



Associates in Ministry

is an advanced discipleship program for committed men and women of a local church. Utilizing New Testament principles, Associates in Ministry (AIM) endeavors to develop lay leadership as well as launch church members into fruitful and satisfying personal ministries within the local church.

How does the program work?

The AIM program consists of twenty challenging weekly meetings. Led by the pastor, the meetings feature study and discovery in such areas as Bible study, spiritual gifts, prayer, evangelism, and other topics related to personal discipleship and ministry. The program also involves challenging weekly assignments completed by the students and discussed at each meeting. One of the highlights of the AIM program is that students complete the course, clearly defined personal ministry which centers specifically around their own spiritual gifts.

How is the program implemented?

A thorough leader's guide has been prepared for any pastor who desires to use the AIM program in a local church. Student's packets are also available. While these materials comprise everything that is needed to carry out the program, a thorough briefing from an experienced AIM leader is also recommended. Such training can be arranged by contacting Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists, Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513, Telephone (919) 746–4963.

March

Is Foreign Missions Month



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WE
23	24	25	26
2	**3** Central Conference Laymen's League, Kings Cross Road FWBChurch, 7:00 Supper, 7:45 Business Albemarle District Youth Meeting Sound Side Church, 7:00 PM	**4**	**5**
9 World Missions Conference	**10** **Deadline for *Free Will Baptist* Material**	**11** Mount Olive College Opera Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" Paramount Theatre, Goldsboro 8:00 PM	**12**
16 MOC Choir at St. Mary's FWB Church, New Bern	**17** St. Patrick's Day	**18** Cragmont Board at Stoney Creek 5:30 PM Wayne County Society Dinner, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center 7:00 PM	**19**
23 Palm Sunday Foreign Missions Telethon Sunday Easter **30**	**24** MOC Student Recital, Rodger's Chapel 7:30 PM Headquarters, FWB Press, and Bookstores Closed No Classes at MOC Easter Monday **31**	**25** Eastern Convocation at MOC 11:00 PM	**26**

Camp Vandemere Revival, Memorial FW

Mount Olive College Regi
March

oncerns

Remember

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	27	**28**	**1** Sunday School Institute at MOC Cape Fear District Youth Meeting Robert's Grove 6:00 PM
	6 Layman's League Executive Board, FWB Headquarters 7:00 PM	**7**	**8** Eastern District Youth Meeting Spring Convention 10:00 AM (9:30 AM Registration) Juniper Chapel
e Spring Break			
istory Lecture Chapel, MOC, 7:00 PM	**13** The Lorelle F. Martin Science Lecture, Rodger's Chapel, MOC 7:30 PM	**14**	**15** Eastern Auxiliary Convention, Folkstone FWB Church
urch, Chocowinity, 7:45 PM each evening			
	20 Career Fair at MOC, College Hall 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Spring Begins	**21** Albermarle Union Meeting & Pre-Easter Service, Plymouth First FWB Church 7:00 PM	**22** Central Auxiliary Western District Youth Meeting Kenly FWB Church
	27	**28** Headquarters Closed No Classes at MOC Good Friday	**29** Sabbath

ion for Summer/Fall 1997
28, 1997

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Values Still the Difference for Men and Boys Alike

When you stop and think about it, Scouting is unlike any other youth program.

Scouting is different — offering much more than team sports or school activities. While many programs help boys develop specific physical skills, Scouting goes beyond the basics and works at developing the whole person — mentally, physically, and morally.

Scouting gives boys the chance to participate in fun, challenging activities while instilling values that will help launch them on a successful life course.

A 1995 Louis Harris & Associates study, *The Values of Men and Boys in America*, revealed many interesting attitudes of today's youth. According to the study, boys in Scouting are well aware of the difference the program makes in their lives, as the following responses attest.

"Scouting has taught me to..."	
Take better care of the environment	89%
Get along with others	88%
Always give your best effort	87%
Have confidence in yourself	87%
Set goals for yourself	87%
Care for other people	86%
Treat others with respect	86%

Should your church be interested in learning how to have a Scouting ministry in your church, contact The Scouting Commission of Original Free Will Baptist, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or call (919) 746–4963.

Looking Ahead

APRIL
Home Missions and Evangelism Month

SUNDAY
April 20, 1997
Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday
for every
Original Free Will Baptist Church

WEEK OF PRAYER
April 14–20, 1997
for
Home Missions and Evangelism Ministry

HARVESTERS CELEBRATION FEAST
Friday, April 25, 1997

1997
MISSION RALLY
Wednesday, September 17, 1997
25th Anniversary
for Home Missions and Evangelism

MINISTER'S PROGRAM

ALL MINISTER'S — MINISTER'S WIDOWS FUND ENROLLMENT $10.00

This letter is to announce a new enrollment in the Minister's Widows Fund. The Reverend C. L. Patrick died recently and his widow received the proceeds of the fund.

When a participating minister dies then a new enrollment is begun. This will be a single enrollment and the total amount due will be $10.00. Full participation requires one year of uninterrupted enrollments by the participant prior to a claim.

Every married minister can and should be a part of this fund. It is not only a financial blessing to the recipient, but also the fund is a tangible way that you can help in a time of great need.

The last enrollment was a single enrollment for the Reverend James Helms.

For all of our mailings we use the mailing list provided to use by the Convention. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy of this list but if your address has changed in any way please notify them at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

Thank you for your participation.
Donald Fader

Sara Parker: Time Manager Extraordinaire!

Sara E. Parker is a gifted young woman — and a nice person, too! A sophomore at Mount Olive College, Sara plays two sports, sings in the choir, and has a 3.8 GPA.

To anyone who knows anything about going to college, the sum of these accomplishments is extraordinary.

Sara is from Four Oaks where she and her family belong to the Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church. Her parents are Reggie and Dianne Parker, and her sister is Martha, age 16, attending South Johnston High School, where Sara went.

Accepted at UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro, NC State and ECU, Sara picked Mount Olive College for a rather practical reason — money. Considering that she is a Free Will Baptist, a stellar athlete, and an excellent student, Mount Olive put together a financial package that tilted the scales.

"I originally did not want to come to Mount Olive College," Sara said. "I wanted to get away and was quite happy with becoming a student number at a big university."

Despite her parents' leaning to Mount Olive, Sara said that her parents left the decision to her, saying, "Wherever you go, it will be your decision."

"I really prayed about it," she said. "The Lord wants me here, I decided."

"So far, I like the education," Sara said. "I've been challenged here more than I thought I would be. Eventually, I want to go to law school."

To get there, Sara is majoring in English and History. She picked English to develop her verbal and writing skills. And she decided on History because, like her dad, she is a history buff and "didn't want to let it go."

At the end of her first year, Sara was presented the Claude Hunter Moore Award as the returning History major showing the most promise and named Freshman of the Year for her overall performance as a student and an athlete.



Sara Parker (right) is congratulated by Ms. Linda Greenwood, Director of Advisement, after being honored as Freshman of the Year at Mount Olive College.

Although Sara had remained healthy, her teammates have been riddled with injuries. Unfortunately, this is a recurring theme for the women's teams at Mount Olive where team depth is always an issue. The downside is those athletes who are healthy have to go all the time with little rest and tire as the season wears on. The upside is that younger players, like Sara, get more game time and the experience that goes along with it.

Sara was a middle hitter on the volleyball team during the fall. The team won about a third of the games. She is also a member of women's basketball team. Like the volleyball team, the basketball team is struggling with youth, injuries, and lack of depth on the bench. The good news is that Sara is getting lots of game time, and with no seniors on the team, everybody will be returning next season.

By having to juggle sports and academics, Sara has learned the meaning of time management... lots to do and little time to do it in.

Besides school and sports, Sara likes to travel.

During the summer of 1997, Sara went to Nashville, Tenn., with a mission group and worked with inner city, elementary school children at a daycare center while parents worked. They did arts and crafts and sang. She was also on a work crew that helped repair three churches.

"It was the most meaningful experience of my life," Sara said. "I've heard about the inner city, but you have no idea what it's like until you've been there. I learned the meaning of the words compassion and empathy. It made me appreciate what I have."

On the lighter side, Sara, her mom and sister braved the New York City crowds during the Christmas holidays, something they've done before. Staying at a Marriot Marquee in the heart of the lights and glitz of Times Square in midtown Manhattan, the threesome squeezed four musicals and the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall into a four-day visit.

"I love Broadway," Sara said without hesitation.

It was New York during the holidays. Over spring break, Sara is going to Paris and Madrid for nine days with a student group made up of a professor and 12 others, nine of whom are from Mount Olive. Sara's face lights up when she mentions it. This is a busy lady!

Mount Olive College is indeed fortunate to have a student of Sara Parker's caliber. She epitomizes much of what the college wants and hopes for in every student. She has carved out a nice place for herself on Mount

Mount Olive College Enrollment Increases

Dr. J. William Byrd, the college's president, announced that the total enrollment for all of the college's programs increased by 12.1 percent over last year's. The increase translates to a total of 1,614 students enrolled at the College's four locations in Mount Olive, Goldsboro at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, New Bern, and Wilmington.

The College's 1995 enrollment at the same time last year was 1,439 students.

The largest growth took place at the Wilmington Center which opened last year and is now in full operation. By year's end, the center had three classes in session and that increased to a high of nine classes with 147 students.

To accommodate the enrollment increase, the Mount Olive's Wilmington Center moved to a larger facility with more classroom and office space and doubled the permanent staff from three to six people.

In addition to offering a degree completion in Management and Organizational Development, the Wilmington Center will soon be offering college level courses in algebra, fine art, and literature, and a one-year degree completion program in Criminal Justice.

The College has also enjoyed growth at the Mount Olive campus, especially in the evening degree-completion programs. During evenings and on Saturdays, the College has more than 150 non-traditional students enrolled in its Management and Organizational Development and Criminal Justice programs.

Mount Olive's traditional program of recent high school graduates, ages 18 to 22, has also grown 7 percent during the past year. Just under 500 students are enrolled in the four-year program with approximately 270 residing on-campus. The rest commute.

"Because North Carolina and the region offers many options for graduating high school students to continue their higher education, this market is the toughest to recruit. Yet, we have done well," Byrd said.

Byrd emphasized that the College's expansion does not signal a change in emphasis from traditional to non-traditional programs, but rather new ways to serve an emerging new market of students in the region.

"We remain dedicated to students in our traditional four-year academic programs as we expand to serve non-traditional students," Byrd said. "The two are not mutually exclusive. We can provide quality higher education to both groups. We are doing it now, and we will continue to at each of our locations."

Mount Olive College's program in Goldsboro located in the education center at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base served 584 students in two fall terms in 1996. Academic terms on base are compressed and meet more often during a week to accommodate deployments, trainings, and reassignments. Otherwise, students on active duty could miss too many classes or fail to complete courses because of their duty requirements.

Finally, Mount Olive's program in New Bern served 209 students during the 1996 fall term. New Bern, which opened in late 1993, offers the 55-week degree-completion program in Management and Organizational Development. Last May's graduation showed the impact of the New Bern Center as the College began to award degrees to students who had completed their programs during the 1995–1996 academic year.

For the first time in the College's history, Mount Olive College presented degrees to more than 235 graduates. The number will jump again at next May's graduation since the College will also be graduating students from the Wilmington Center.

"Overall, the enrollment picture is looking very encouraging," Byrd said. "We still have to work hard for every student we bring to Mount Olive College. And then once they are here, we have an obligation to meet their requirements and expectations. This business of higher education is competitive and dynamic. We can't relax."

In addition to a healthy enrollment situation, college officials are relieved that its accrediting organization recently removed sanctions on the College.

"The College's recent audit verified what we said it would," Byrd said. "The Commission on Colleges were satisfied, and all sanctions were lifted."

"With so many positive things happening, I am very pleased with the action by the Commission on Colleges," Byrd said. "While the financial status of the College is improved, fiscal management for all small private colleges will always be crucial. Even without the Commission's scrutiny, we will continue to be extremely careful and present stewards. We owe this to our students, to our founding church, and to our supporters.

"With the improved enrollment, the College's expanding programs, and our clean bill from our accrediting organizations, people who are associated with Mount Olive College should be very pleased with what they are seeing," Byrd said. "I certainly am."

Sara Parker: Time Manager Extraordinaire! Cont....

Olive College campus. In just over a year and a half, she is known , admired, and liked. She seems to be in control and knows where she's going. No doubt, she'll get there. And Mount Olive will be one stop along the way.

SOFTBALL

Mount Olive College also fields an impressive women's softball team. Like the men, the women's team has excellent returning talent, and undoubtedly will improve on last year's impressive 28–26 record.

The women's team plays an aggresive brand of fast pitch softball. If you haven't seen this kind of ball, you'll have a treat in store. It is action packed. Here is the team's schedule.

March 2–9	Rebel Spring Games, Orlando Fl		
March 12	Shaw University	Away	2:00 PM
March 15	Wingate University	Away	1:00 PM
March 18	NC Central University	Away	5:30 PM
March 19	UNC-Wilmington	Away	2:00 PM
March 20	Methodist College	Home	2:00 PM
March 25	Coker College	Home	2:00 PM
March 27	Pfeiffer College	Away	1:00 PM
March 28–30	Columbus College Invitational		TBA

Other spring sports at Mount Olive College include men's and women's tennis and men's golf. We'll profile these teams in the April issue.



The Rev. W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, speaks to members of Mrs. Dianne B. Riley's Introduction to Christian Education class at Mount Olive College. The class has nine students and meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:20 PM to 9:20 PM.

SUNDAY BUFFET

Every Sunday from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, a very nice Sunday Buffet is offered in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on Mount Olive College campus. The cost is $6.00 for adults and $3.00 for children. We are always pleased to have guests and want you to feel welcome.

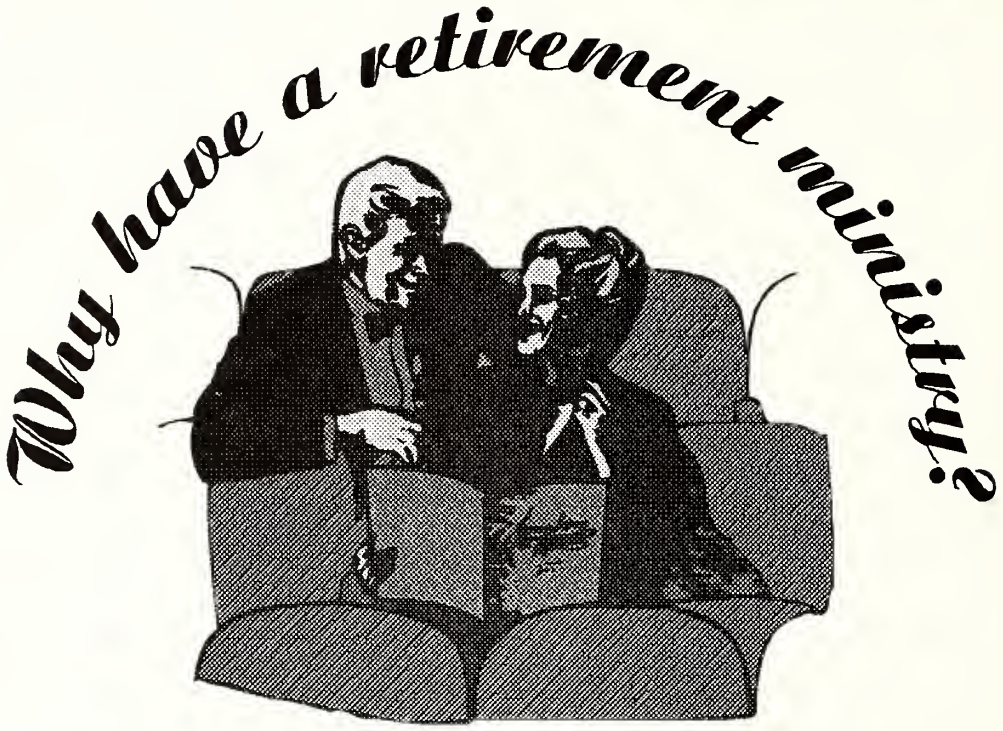
BASEBALL SEASON IS UNDERWAY

The 1996 baseball season might go down as the best ever for Mount Olive College. The squad posted a 37–9 record, won the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference regular season championship, went to the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament, and finished 21st in the country! With most of the team returning this season, those "in the know" who follow college baseball have ranked the Trojans at 9th in the country of Division II going into the season. Say a little prayer the team does well. Better yet, come on out and watch a game for a few innings. It's a nice way to spend a spring afternoon, and you'll see a high caliber college baseball game. Here is the team's schedule in March.

March 1	Coker College (DH)	Away	1:00 PM	March 15	Newberry College	Home	1:00 PM
March 2	Coker College	Away	2:00 PM	March 16	Newberry College	Home	1:00 PM
March 4	Francis Marion Univ.	Away	3:00 PM	March 17	Louisburg College (Ex)	Home	3:00 PM
March 5	Francis Marion Univ.	Away	3:00 PM	March 18	Francis Marion Univ.	Home	3:00 PM
March 6	Catawba College	Home	1:00 PM	March 22	Longwood (DH)	Home	1:00 PM
March 8	Belmont Abbey (DH)	Away	1:00 PM	March 23	Longwood	Home	2:00 PM
March 9	Belmont Abbey	Away	2:00 PM	March 25	St. Augustine	Home	3:00 PM
March 12	NC Wesleyan	Home	3:00 PM	March 28	Erskine College	Home	3:00 PM
March 13	Methodist College	Away	3:00 PM	March 29	Erskine College (DH)	Home	1:00 PM

MARCH 1997 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 3–7	Spring Break	
March 11	Opera — Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*	8:00 PM, Paramount Theatre, Goldsboro
March 12	Women's History Lecture	7:00 PM, Rodgers Chapel
March 13	The Lorelle F. Martin Science Lecture	7:30 PM, Rodgers Chapel
March 16	The Mount Olive College Choir	St. Mary's FWB Church, New Bern
March 17–21	Career Week	
March 18	Wayne County Society Dinner	7:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
March 20	Career Fair	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, College Hall
March 24	Student Recital	7:30 PM, Rodgers Chapel



First of all because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the prime motivation for any ministry, and a close second is that His people need our help. There are several specific items that Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry needs to address.

A place to live is very important in a society that is as complex as ours and several of our people need such a place. We are currently caring for three people, and four more have requested housing aid, but we do not have the financial resources to add any residents. Moreover, if four people have asked about help, there are probably several more who would benefit greatly from our loving care.

If we are careless and ignore the needs made known to us, are we fulfilling our commitment to our Lord? I believe that we are seriously negligent in our duty if we fail to meet the commitment with which we have been entrusted. Therefore, I believe that all of us should take a careful look at our efforts to help others. Retirement Homes Ministry is one way of helping some very deserving people. Most of us are aware that many governmental programs are being scaled back and whether we think that is good or bad it challenges us to find ways to serve our elderly folk. They have served us well; now it is our turn.

Special Need

We are going to have to spend more than three thousand dollars to repair and protect the duplex on North Lee Street. This will provide protection from termites and other wood destroyers, as well as pests which infest houses. Until we actually begin work we will not know the exact cost, but if you could help it would be a blessing and greatly appreciated.

Additional Services

We already have several workshops that will help prepare persons to deal with the special problems of elderly persons and we would like to develop more. New services will take time, to share needs and to build the resources. Please pray for your Retirement Ministry and help financially as you are able.

Current Residents

At this time we have the following persons in our care:

Mrs. Rose Bowen
403-B North Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
Telephone (919) 746-4106
Birthday April 9

Miss Kaye Jones
403-A North Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
Telephone (919) 746-4563
Birthday November 8

Mrs. Natalie Taylor
P.O. Box 225
Coats, NC 27521
Telephone (910) 897-8736
Birthday March 16

Any of these ladies would appreciate a card or a letter.

PREPARING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

The staff at the Free Will Baptist Press is always ready to help you get your news items and articles published. Following are some tips for making the process easier.

1. Type all copy. Use 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper; smaller paper can get lost or misplaced. Do not strike over letters, and make all erasures as neat as possible. Be sure that the type is clear.

2. Keep a copy of all material typed. This will avoid the possibility of having to redo the item in case of loss. Please include your phone number so the staff may call if there are questions about your copy.

3. Indicate the title of the article approximately two inches down from the top of page one. Leave an inch and a half at the top of each succeeding page; and for convenience of editing, please number succeeding pages. Type on one side of paper only.

4. Leave a margin of at least an inch on both sides of the page.

5. Never write perpendicularly in the margin.

6. Write no more than one article on a sheet.

7. Do not divide a word between pages. Avoid dividing words between lines as much as possible.

8. Clip pages together, using paper clips. Do not staple pages.

9. Read, reread, and correct your own copy before sending it.

10. If words, phrases, or sentences are of particular importance to the point of needing to be emphasized, indicate such by underlining or bold print.

11. Observe and practice the proper rules of grammar and punctuation.

12. Prepare your articles and reports as far in advance as possible so as not to delay their publication. All articles for publication should be in no later than twenty days in advance. For example, articles for publication in the March issue should be in the hands of the editor by February 10. Late copy delays the publication and causes problems on all fronts. (Holidays, such as Christmas, cause earlier deadlines.) Typically, items received after the 10th cannot be included in an issue.

13. Remember that all items to be published must be submitted in typed form. Items should not be hand written or phoned in.

14. Churches and pastors wishing to announce their availability should note that this information is run as space permits. It should also be noted that there is absolutely no way anyone but the minister can relate his or her availability.

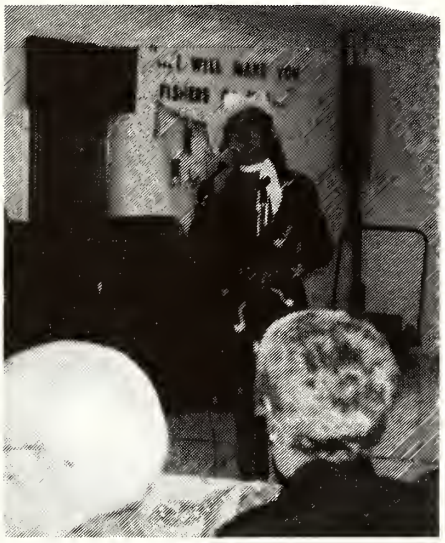
15. It should always be remembered that the editor makes the final decision as to whether or not something is deemed worthy of printing.

16. If you are sending in an article that is camera ready, it must also be in by the 10th of the month. Your margins must be 1/2 inch on the top and the sides, 3/4 inch on the bottom. Your copy needs to be justified and free of any spelling or grammar errors. If your copy contains errors, it will be reset. Also, the copy we receive needs to be on white paper, and very clear (if at all possible from a laser printer). Do not fold the copy in any way; mail in an 9 x 12 inch envelope with cardboard to keep the copy from being bent in mailing.

17. Send articles to the following address: Attention: Editor, Free Will Baptist Press, Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513–0159.

Happy Easter
from
Free Will Baptist Press
and your local
Bible and Bookstore
Ayden, Kinston,
New Bern, & Wilson

Christmas Events At Holly Springs FWB Church in Newport



The Ladies Sunday school class of Holly Springs FWB Church of Newport held its annual Christmas dinner on December 7. The class enjoyed a delicious dinner, good fellowship, and door prizes. Entertainment was provided by Patsy Cline and Elvis alias Mark and Elaine Gaskins, who also sang Christmas songs and gospel songs. The evening ended with a reading of "Keeping Christmas" by class teacher, Peggy Horrell, to remind everyone of the true meaning of Christmas. Approximately 60 people attended.



"The Gathering"

On December 15, the Adult Choir presented the cantata, "The Gathering." Under the direction of Jo McCabe, the cantata told the story of Jesus's miraculous birth in story and song. It's truly a story that never grows old.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

On December 20, 21, and 22, Holly Springs FWB Church presented a play, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." It was the first time such a major production has been undertaken by the Youth Department of the church, but probably won't be the last! On stage, the cast of 39 did a great job remembering their lines and places. Offstage, the directors and crew did equally as well. Attendance was good every night, and blessings were received by all.





News Release...

Marlboro OFWB Church Welcomes New Pastor

The Rev. Stephen M. Prescott has assumed his new duties as pastor of Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, North Carolina. A native of Pamlico County, the Rev. Prescott is a 1995 Cum Laude graduate of Mount Olive College, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Church Ministries. He is also a 1992 Cum Laude graduate of Mount Olive College, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, with a major in Business Management and a minor in Music.

The Rev. Prescott and his wife, Lynn, come to Marlboro Church from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville, where he served as Associate Pastor. Ordained in the Eastern Conference in October of 1996, the Rev. Prescott has served as pulpit supply speaker for the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kinston, Christian Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, and Long Ridge Free Will Baptist Church. He also did part of his interim student ministry at Zion Free Will Baptist Church in Blakeley, Georgia.

A reception was held on Sunday, February 2, for the Rev. and Mrs. Prescott to officially welcome them to Marlboro Church.

Spring Revival

Marlboro OFWB Church
Farmville, NC
Stephen M. Prescott, Pastor

Guest Evangelist
Dr. Bobby Taylor
Executive Director, OFWB Children's Home

Sunday – Wednesday, March 9–12
6:00 PM Sunday
7:30 PM Monday – Wednesday

It is our privilege to cordially invite you to attend our Spring Revival. We will feature special music from the area each night, in addition to music from the Marlboro Church Choir. For more information or directions to the church, please call 919–753–2185.

"O Come, Revive Us Lord!"

News from...

Mt. Pleasant FWB Church

Congratulations to Mt. Pleasant FWB Church in Mill Creek from the Carteret County FWB Youth Fellowship. They won a Plaque for having the most youth attend Youth Rally for 1996 with a total of 357. They also won the banner for the most youth attending for 12 consecutive months. Keep up the good work and may God bless you.





A Note of Appreciation

Seldom does one realize the importance of small deeds, those of you in our beloved denomination who have remembered in any way, my father, James A. Evans. He misses the fellowship with his peers, friends, and the denominational activities. Those deeds have been so great, loving and certainly a display of kindness. You have brought much happiness to him (and to his family) through your love, care and "keeping in touch." As many know, he was 91 years old in November and he has good days, and some difficult days; he never complains, only says "My Lord is by my side!"

Please accept this note as a personal thank you.

We Covet your prayers.

Ann Evans Haddock

News from...

Mount Tabor Church Is Going on a Spiritual Adventure

The congregation of Mount Tabor OFWB Church of Creswell will soon join together on a 50-Day Spiritual Adventure designed to make their church a better place. Entitled, "The Church You've Always Longed For: What You Can Do To Make It Happen," this spiritual growth event will run from Easter Sunday, March 30th, through Pentecost Sunday, May 18th, 1997. Mount Tabor will be one of almost 3000 churches from across North America who will be participating in the Spiritual Adventure during the spring of 1997. About half a million Christians are expected to be involved. Another million Christians will participate in the Adventure in India and Nepal. The 50-Day Spiritual Adventure, an annual event, was created by The Chapel Ministries, a national, nondenominational Christian outreach. This year's Adventure was developed with the input of hundreds of pastors and laypersons from across the country, making certain it meets the needs of today's church people.

Each 50-Day Spiritual Adventure is built around eight weekly themes. This year the Adventure will focus on eight specific ways to make any church, even a great one, a more inviting place to belong and worship. The Mount Tabor congregation will work at becoming "The Church You've Always Longed For," by Working at being a caring family; Capturing the hearts of the community; Welcoming all people; Empowering each individual; Modeling integrity; Serving a broken world; Encountering the living God; and Anticipating a great future.

In addition to hearing weekly sermons on these topics, adults, teens, and children at Mount Tabor will be completing a workbook called an Adventure Journal. Daily and weekly assignments will help them learn how to listen with the ears of Jesus, share good things about the church with others, connect with individuals outside their own circles, help each other become all God wants them to be, and practice personal integrity.

"I'm so excited that Mount Tabor can be part of this global ministry event," says Pastor Keith Pelletier. "In the three years that I've been here at Mount Tabor, the church has pulled together in a number of physical endeavors including a new educational building and the renovation of the church's front and entrance. The youth of the church rallied together and raised $6000 in less than a year in order to place a steeple on the church. Those accomplishments were needed and they are great, and they don't happen without dedication and love. But, we realize here that we also need to grow and build spiritually and that the greatest accomplishments are those which involve the heart and spirit. So, even though we believe Mount Tabor is already a great place, this 50-Day Spiritual Adventure will give the entire church family a chance to pull together to make Mount Tabor even more inviting and welcoming. I am expecting God to do some great things in our church during these eight weeks!"

Mount Tabor Church is located on Mount Tabor Road in Creswell. Sunday Morning Worship begins at 11 AM, and the congregation encourages anyone who would like to become a part of the Adventure to visit, or to call 797–4682 for more information.

News from...

Kenly FWB Church

The Woman's Auxiliary of Kenly Original Free Will Baptist Church recently awarded Lifetime Membership pins and certificates to nine of its members in recognition of their many years of service.

They were very loyal in preparing meals, visiting the sick, encouraging those who may be discouraged, and always willing and ready to help in any kind of need.



Front row, sitting: Hazel Little. Back row L–R: Audrey Boykin, Chassie Lee Rowe, Madlyn Watson, Mercedes Oliver, Lucille Snipes, and Lucille Jones. (Not pictured: Eula Watson and Lucille Jomp.)

FYI for your information ? ? ?

FWB History

Dr. Michael Pelt, Professor Emeritus of Religion at Mount Olive College, will conduct a series of three sessions on Free Will Baptist history on March 5, 12, and 19 at 7:00 PM at Westside Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. Jeff Daughtry, pastor at Westside, and Dr. Pelt has issued an invitation to the churches of Lenoir County and surrounding areas to attend this seminar. The purpose of the seminar is to help those who attend to become better informed about the denomination's history and the rich heritage of every Free Will Baptist. Question: How can we know who we are as persons without a knowledge of our past, and how can we know who we are as a denomination unless we know from whence we have come? Dr. Pelt will use selected material from his recently published book, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, to accomplish this purpose.

Woman's Auxiliary members in the Eastern District may receive credit for a study course by attending this seminar. All persons who wish to learn more about Free Will Baptist history are encouraged to attend. There will be no charge for participations. Westside Church is located at 1205 Lynn Drive in Kinston.

Come To
Vandora Springs Free Will Baptist Church
The Rev. Jesse B. Caton, Pastor

History of
Free Will Baptist Church
Denomination
To be taught by a writer of
The Free Will Baptist History
The Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez

March 10, 1997 - 7:30PM

1521 Vandora Springs Road
Garner, NC 27521
919-779-1304

1997 Boxed Greeting Cards Are In!
$4.95 – $5.95, 10 or more boxes 30% off.
Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, New Bern
Bible and Bookstore

Prayer Request

Mrs. Rose G. Bowen now lives at 403–B N. Lee St., Ayden, NC 28513–1615. She was moved from 411 N. Lee St. when the home there was sold. During Hurricane Bertha, she fell and pulled ligaments in her stomach and back. She has been confined to her apartment, with very little going out, since July 14th and still isn't well even though a therapist has worked with her for over five months. She requests that all churches, friends, pastors, etc. pray much for her.

Mrs. Bowen thanks you for remembering her during this time and during Christmas with your cards, gifts, and thoughts but most of all she thanks you for your prayers. May God bless you "real good!"

Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund

The Christian Fellowship Class has set up a Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund. The interest earned from this fund will be used to help send children to Cragmont.

This will be an ongoing Endowment. Contributions are welcomed at anytime.

You can make your check payable to the **Christian Fellowship Class**.
Mail to
Christian Fellowship Class
Ellen Forlines
2907 Ellsworth Drive
Greenville, NC 27834

Winterville FWB Church
919–355–2490

Albemarle Union Meeting and Pre–Easter Service

Plymouth First FWB Church
March 21, 1997
7:00 PM

Opening Session:

Pianist — Mrs. Lucille Jones
Welcome — Host Church
Response — the Rev. Robert May
Roll Call of Ministers
Recognition of Visiting Ministers and Visitors
Roll Call of Churches
Offering
Prayer Request and Prayer Time

Communion Service:

Rev. Keith Pelletier
Special Music — Host Church
Message — the Rev. Bob Harber
Closing Hymn

Business Session:

All Reports To Be Literature
Old Business
New Business
Report of Standing Committees
Report of Ministries
- Children's Home
- Mount Olive College
- FWB Press
- Home Missions
- Foreign Missions
- Cragmont Assembly
- Retirement Home
- Ministers Program
- Sunday School Board

Benediction

Refreshments will be served following the service. Please assist by bringing items to serve.

Western District Auxiliary Convention

Pleasant Hill FWB Church, 1071 Gurley Dairy Rd., Pikeville, NC
Apirl 12, 1997

Theme:	The Glory of Christ
Scripture:	John 17:5
9:00	Registration
9:30	Hymn
	Devotion — John 1:14 — Sandy Thick
	Welcome — Betty Lynch
	President's Remarks — Jean Marlowe
9:50	Hymn
	Convention Offering
	Reports from our Denominational Ministries — Rev. Scott Sowers
10:20	Memorial Service — Joyce Edmundson
	Business Session
11:00	Break
11:20	Hymn
	Life Membership Award
	Special Music
	Convention Message — Hilda Sasser
12:15	Installation of Officers — Rosalene Bass
	Benediction
12:30	Lunch

ATTENTION NORTH CAROLINA WOMAN'S AUXILIARIES

The 1997 session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention will convene on Thursday, May 8, 1997 at White Oak FWB Church in Bladenboro, NC. Each Auxiliary should be represented with one delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, plus a registration fee of $15.00. In order to save time, we request that you send your registration fee in advance. This allows the State Treasurer to prepare the cards in advance, and saves the delegate the trouble of having to register at the door.

Please mail your fee before April 25, if possible, to the following address:

Mrs. Nadine Crocker
568 House Road, Kenly, North Carolina 27542.

If you cannot possibly attend, please mail your fee anyway, as the Convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there.

NOTICE

This is to inform Original Free Will Baptists that Mike Gray is no longer a licensed minister in the Albemarle Conference (Harold Swinson, Moderator).

for your FYI information ? ? ?

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Folkstone FWB Church, Folkstone, NC
March 15, 1997

Theme: "The Power of a Good Example"
Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12

9:30	Registration
9:50	Music Medley — JoAnn Parrish
10:00	Call to Order — Nina Grace Register
	Prayer for Convention
	Hymn No. 410 — "He Leadeth Me"
10:10	Welcome — Jeanette Lefler, President
	Response — Margaret Carol Banks
10:15	Scripture and Prayer — Judy Thaanum
10:35	President's Remarks — Happy Taylor
	Appointment of Committees
10:45	Report of Denominational Ministries
11:05	Hymn No. 259 — "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart"
11:10	Business Session
	Secretary's Report
	Treasurer's Report
	Recognition A–1 Auxiliaries — Nina Grace Register
	Convention Offering, Camp Vandemere
11:30	Life Award — Committee
11:40	Special Music — Host Church
11:45	Worship Service — Carol Prescott
12:15	Hymn No. 385 — "Where He Leads"
	Miscellaneous Business
	Report of Committees
	Installation of Officers — Janet Brown
	Lunch Announcement
12:30	Benediction and Blessing — the Rev. Ronnie Parker

ATTENTION WOMAN'S AUXILIARIES

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year, in time to be sent to your District Treasurer before, or in time for, your District Convention. The dues are $.40 per member per year.

Sent these dues to your District Treasurer: she will keep $.20 and send $.20 to your State Treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your Convention. Thank you for your past support; we know that we can continue to count on you.

PASTOR AVAILABLE

Rev. Franklin Robbins of Tarboro is now available for full-time or part-time ministry.
Contact Rev. Robbins at 919–823–3832 and leave a message.

YOUTH DIRECTOR NEEDED

First FWB Church in Greenville needs a Youth & Educational Director
Contact Ronnie Hobgood at 756–6600

PASTOR NEEDED

Sound View FWB Church, Highway 24 near Morehead City is looking for a new pastor.
If interested call 919–223–4139 after 5:00 or leave a message.

JOB VACANCY

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH

BLACK JACK OFWB CHURCH, GREENVILLE, NC

REQUIREMENTS: Responsible Christian individual who has the ability to develop and implement youth programs in an Original Free Will Baptist atmosphere.

QUALIFICATIONS: College degree in related area or appropriate job experience.

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: Prefer full time

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Develop and implement plan for youth department.
2. Assist pastor in routine duties.
3. Plan, coordinate and implement youth programs and activities.

For application information, call the Black Jack OFWB Church at 919–752–6485.

Salary Range $17,000–$24,000 (plus benefits)
Salary will be determined by experience and education.

GOSPEL MUSIC

"The Radfords" from Spring Hill FWB Church, Goldsboro would welcome an opportunity to visit your church for a special night of Gospel music. They sang at the Annual Convention Mission Rally in 1994. For a service full of love and inspiration, contact them at 919–734–3280 or 919–734–0750.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

TWO DAYS THAT CHALLENGED MY LIFE

by the Rev. Ray Wells
Pastor of Marsh Swamp Church

January 9 and 10 will be two days that I will never forget. On those two days, I sat with 12 other Original Free Will Baptist ministers and several hundred other ministers from various denominations to hear Dr. John Maxwell talk about "The Influence of Leadership." We sat in the sanctuary of First Assembly of God in Winston-Salem and listened as John poured out his heart and soul to us about the importance of leadership in the church and ministry.

On Thursday afternoon, while John was teaching about leadership and prayer, you could feel the presence of the Lord in the building. John stopped teaching and led us in a prayer of commitment. Following his prayer for us, he asked that we find someone near us to pray with; and there in that place, over 700 people prayed for and with each other. I cannot speak for the others who made the trip, but that moment challenged me and changed me forever. I felt such an outpouring of God's love and power that I could envision how Isaiah must have felt when the Lord spoke to him in the temple. Later, as our group gathered in the motel, we spent time discussing the events of the day and how what we had seen and heard would impact our ministries, our churches, our Convention, and ourselves. It was a great time of sharing and getting better acquainted with our brother ministers.

As we assembled for the meeting on Friday, we did so with great excitement and anticipation as to what the day would hold for us. The morning session was focused on finding leaders in the church and the afternoon session dealt with stewardship. As the seminar came to a close, all of us were inspired by what we had heard and experienced. We were all ready to go home and put into practice what we had learned.

I am thankful for the opportunity to have attended the two-day seminar. I was able to spend two days with my brother ministers and to share together in two days of settings goals and visions for ourselves, our churches, and our Convention. It was indeed two days that challenged and changed my life; and I believe the lives of 12 other Original Free Will Baptists were also changed.

I want to conclude by thanking the church I pastor and the churches of the other ministers who helped them with the expenses of the conference. I believe that the investment that each church made will be rewarded. I also want to thank our Executive Administrator, the Rev. Scott Sowers, for making this opportunity available to our pastors, and to the Board of Directors of Home Missions and Evangelism and the Rev. David C. Hansley for giving the home missionaries the opportunity to be involved in this conference. It is my prayer that all who participated will continue to strive to be better pastors, leaders, and visionaries.

LEADERSHIP ENDOWMENT DINNER PLANNED

The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow will be honored on May 30, 1997, at the Convention's first Leadership Endowment Dinner. Mr. Barrow has been selected because of the significant impact he has made on the Convention and the leadership he has provided. During his years of ministry, he has served the Convention, various ministry boards, denominational institutions, and Original Free Will Baptist churches.

Mr. Barrow was married to Alice Herget; they have 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. Mr. Barrow makes his home in Arba, which is located outside of Snow Hill, NC.

The Dinner will be held at First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, NC. Gifts may be given to the Endowment in his honor or in memory of Mrs. Alice Barrow. For more information, contact the Rev. W. Scott Sowers, executive administrator, by phoning (919) 746-4963; or by writing to him at the following address: Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

A SUNDAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Do you like to take pictures? Good! Get some film and have your camera ready. Following the example of major publications, we are encouraging Original Free Will Baptists to submit photos from a "Sunday in the Life of an Original Free Will Baptist Church." Photos are to be taken on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1997, and submitted by July 1, 1997.

All photos submitted must be either 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 and include a form with the name, address, phone number, church name of the photographer, as well as a description of the picture. Subject matter may include people, worship, Sunday School, children, and fellowship.

A committee will be appointed to arrange an exhibition of the submissions at the 1997 Convention. If funding is arranged, the photos will be prepared in a publication format, also. Pictures should be submitted to W. Scott Sowers, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

The Golden Years

The Ultimate Decision

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

(This issue of Golden Years is also for young people!)

"...Choose you this day whom ye will serve..." (Joshua 24:15).

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

Are there any decisions you need to make today? This year? Before the end of life? For each of us, the number is innumberable. Life itself is a series of decisions, and with the passing of the years, these decisions become more complex and more deeply rooted in the whole fabric of our existence.

Most of our daily decisions are operational and transitory: What shall I wear today? What shall I have for lunch? Shall I attend my club meeting this week? For the most part, decisions of this type have no lasting effect upon our lives.

Other decisions reach further into the future. Shall I buy a new car? Shall I finance my home under a twenty or thirty-year plan? Should it be on a fixed or variable interest rate? Over the span of a lifetime, however, not even these decisions will determine the course of our lives.

Then, there are watershed decisions: Shall I continue my education, if so, which college should I attend? For what work or profession should I prepare? Should I marry, and if so, whom? What about children? Does my personal and social life involve the use of alcoholic beverages? Do I have a financial plan for my senior years? These are watershed decisions which may affect the remainder of our time on earth.

Decisions for Senior Citizens

The further we go along the journey of life, the more important our decisions become. During the spring of life, my decisions — if they prove to be unwise — can be altered and recast into new decisions. As we grow older, however, major decisions become increasingly irrevocable.

Retirement can close the door to future employment. We have to be more careful with our financial affairs, for if we make a major mistake, there is less time to recover. Health-related decisions can become one-way streets. Giving up our home to live with our children or going to a retirement center can be like burning the bridge behind us. Yet, age and conditions beyond our control can make decisions in these areas inescapable.

The Reference Point

Whether young or old, putting our lives together is like constructing a building. We must have a reference point.

Some years ago when I was a graduate student in higher education at Florida State University, a professor related the story of a school building that was to be constructed on a site that had a high water table. The architect was instructed to have the floor level twelve inches above any flooding on record in that area.

The new school was a model in design, but on the eve of open house, there was a heavy rain and the school was flooded. The school board brought suit against the contractor, but he proved in court that the floor level was exactly what the plans given him by the school board called for.

The architect was brought in to defend his drawings. He reported that as a reference point for the elevation of the school, he had used the top of a fire hydrant on the corner of the building site. The investigation revealed that after the architect turned the plans over to the school board but before the bids were awarded to the contractor, a drunken driver had crashed into the old fire hydrant and it had been replace with a new design which was much shorter. Because of a change in the reference point, a multimillion dollar school was unusable.

The ultimate decision in building our lives is choosing our reference point: God, wealth, pleasure, power, prestige, success or some other man-made reference. We do not have to serve God, but if our decisions is not to serve Him, our only choice is to choose another master. God made us to be free persons, but ultimately we have but one freedom, and that is the freedom to choose our master, the one whom we will serve. All other major decisions flow from this one. It is as Jesus taught us, "No man can serve two masters," (Matthew 6:24).

Whatever our ages, life requires many decisions from us, but the ultimate decisions is to choose whom we will serve. Joshua, who had fought many life and death battles, declared with joy and conviction," ...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," (Joshua 24:15b).

With God as the reference point for our decisions, I believe we can trust His wisdom to guide us, His strength to sustain us and His love to keep us.

1997 (Vol. 2, No.5) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

Teaching Children to Pray Through Sunday School

One of the most important things that we can do as teachers is to help our young people learn how to pray. Prayer habits that last a lifetime are most often formed in childhood. That is why it is so important and critical that we begin teaching our children how to communicate with God at a very young age. As with most of the spiritual disciplines, prayer is something that must be taught and modeled in front of people. Here are four basic ideas that can help us teach our children to pray.

1

We need to help our children understand that prayer is simply talking to God. Too many times we are caught up in form and methods, but in reality prayer is just simply talking to our Father. We need to help our children learn that talking to God is just like talking to their best friend. Urge children to talk to God as they would to anyone else. Explain to them that you do not have to learn a special way or special words to talk to God. God just wants us to talk to Him the same way we talk to anyone else.

2

We need to explain that there is nothing too big or too small to tell God. We can tell God anything from how our day went at school to the problems we are having in math class. God is concerned about every part of our lives. Help children to understand that God wants to know how their day went. Let them know that God enjoys hearing about how they scored the winning basket at the game. We need to help children understand that nothing is to important or unimportant to tell God.

3

We need to help our youth understand that God is listening to all our prayers. God is always there, willing and eager to listen to what we have to say. We also need to help our students understand that God answers prayers in several different ways. God may answer yes, but God might also answer no. Sometimes God says not now, wait a little while. We need to help children understand that God answers in a way that will be best for them. One of the ways we can help children visualize God answering prayer is by making a prayer wall. On one side of the wall put the requests that the youth have. When the prayer is answered, move the prayer request to the other side that is labeled answered prayer. Thank God for each answer.

4

We need to help our children understand that no matter where we are we can pray. The Bible describes many different places where people prayed. We do not have to be in church or have our eyes closed to talk to God. Prayer is appropriate wherever we are and whatever we are doing. If we are playing ball or sitting at home we can always talk to God. Besides leading our children to the Lord, helping them learn how to communicate with God will be one of the most important things that we ever do as Sunday school teachers.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

John Phillips. *Exploring Proverbs*. Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux, I, 1995.

Introduction

The Hebrew word *mishlai* comes from *mashal* which means to rule. Translated into English as "Proverbs," we discovered that *mishlai* are words, sayings, and wisdom that are designed to govern or rule the way to live. King Solomon, son of David, collected many of these sayings and recorded them in the form of a *distich* — a verse of two lines. Author John Phillips notes of King Solomon's research: "His wise sayings were collected, other treasures of divinely inspired wisdom were added to the collection, and the whole was eventually published in the book we call Proverbs" (16).

Moral Issues in Proverbs

Solomon was intrigued by sayings, and he loved riddles. As he collected sayings, he established the reputation of wisdom. Dr. Phillips tells us that many years after Solomon's death, "Hezekiah asked his scribes to compile Solomon's proverbs, and these compilers apparently added the sayings of other wise men to the collection" (18).

In the first of two volumes, Dr. Phillips focuses upon moral issues in Proverbs. Are there moral issues of acute interest to us today? Indeed, yes. In order to make moral choices that will enhance our life, our community, and our relationship to God, what must we do? What must we do to become wise?

Proverbs has some specific suggestions: 1) to be receptive, 2) to be responsive, 3) to be resolute (55–56), 4) to fear or reverence the Lord (57), 5) to develop discretion (65), 6) to seek purity (69), 7) to seek stability, 8) to avoid the wicked, 9) to trust in the Lord, 10) to tithe as an expression of honoring the Lord.

Contrasts in Proverbs

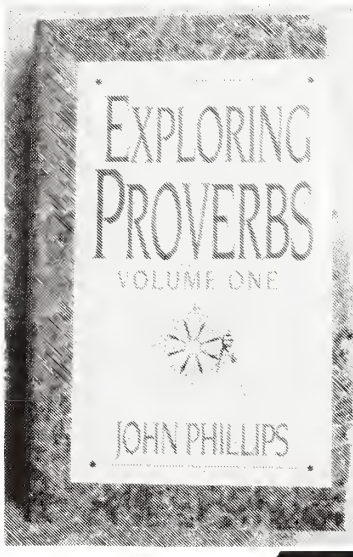
"A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother" (Proverbs 10:1). "The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked" (Proverbs 10:3).

Note the contrasts: wise son and foolish son; the soul of the righteous and the substance of the wicked. Both the wise son and the spiritual man are concerned with the soul; whereas, the foolish son and the wicked man are concerned with materials more than spirit.

Dr. Phillips draws attention to Solomon's use of contrasts, and he adds a wider base through literary, scientific, and historical anecdotes. He uses Shakespeare's line "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune" (234) to illustrate Proverbs 10:5 — "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

Comparisons in Proverbs

Solomon uses comparisons to provide instruction in Proverbs. He tells us: "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul" (Proverbs 16:17). He writes: "How much better is it to get wisdom that gold! and to get understanding rather than to be chosen than silver! (Proverbs 16:16). Notice the thoughts express a comparison with the connective word *and*. The contrast statements earlier use the connective word *but*.



Conclusion

Dr. Phillips' extensive study of Proverbs provides a rich legacy of an etymology of words, historical heritage, literary comparisons, human anecdotes, theological references, and Biblical exegesis. Though you may have a different interpretation, his book will place you on the edge of new thoughts where for a moment the blank space of intellect may flash a universe of small stars.

***Exploring Proverbs* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore:**
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

by N. Bruce Barrow

There is a need for church leadership, because the time is upon us when it seems that the things of this world call and the church listens to its advice rather than answering with the message of Christ. There is seemingly a longing for the world's approval, instead of a longing for a message from the courtts of Christ for a needy world. The world of this age appears to want the church to become a social and helpful agency but not a redeeming force, and the church seems to be in agreement with this request.

The church is called to become a peculiar people both in the world and to the world as its members work together in love. While this may be the calling of the church, the appearance of the church is often one of confusion which is not the example the church desires to set for the world.

Our Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:1–7, that the closing days will see a falling away of mankind from God's church. Man will become very selfish and selfwilled. The Bible also requests that the church pray for more laborers (servants) to enter the whitened fields who will work for the sake of serving their Lord as opposed to working for profit, pleasure, or the hop of retiring after a certain time of service. In short, the servant of the Lord and His church should work because of their desire to please Him and spread His message.

I remember so well when I was on the ordaining council of my conference a candidate for the ministry told me, "I need training for prestige. I do not need it to preach, and I do not have time to mess around with preacher-calling (visitation)." Is there an answer to this problem? Is there a way back to a real lasting and fruitful discipleship that will produce leadership? Is there a way to put the church in place of service to which it was called?

I would suggest that the church needs to say to the world and its sinful leaders a similar answer as that given by Daniel to the King in Daniel 5:17: "Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another:..." Yet I will render service. Daniel seems to have said power, prestige, or provisions will not be the real purpose. Real leadership will come only when the church laymen and ministers decide that in purity of purpose and action they want to be givers of service according to the call of **Heaven's courts;** then our time will be His time (to use wisely for Him), our talents His talents to be developed for the glory of His service, and our possessions to be used to glorify His name.

Someone might ask why we have this critical need for leadership in the Christian church today. I have observed a desire to *become* without paying the price of discipleship. We see this desire manifested in many ways:

a) Shortcuts to preparation without real study.
b) Many ministers and laymen are inconsistant in their service (they have no life commitment).
c) Servants of the Lord often know more about newspapers than church planning.
d) Many laymen seem to feel that the pastor is paid. "Let him perform the task!" Hence, little lay leadership.
e) Satan's message is the same today as it was to our first parent: "Look at the fruit. It is attractive. Take the fruit because it is pleasant to the taste. Look! the fruit will make you wise!"

One failure of the church leadership, it seems to me, has been a longing to be cowboys and shepherds. This fosters a spirit of rebellion instead of one of cooperation which is necessary for the survival of Christ's church.

If the need for church leadership is to be satisfied, we as a church must have a pattern of compassion in the heart put there by love for the human soul, and it must grow through Biblical study and communion with Christ along with Christian fellowship. The church must also have a personal commitment to Christ, putting His service foremost in our activities. This will come when we see a lost world in need and dedicate ourselves to His service.

Biographical Information

N. Bruce Barrow
Born: October 23, 1911. Greene County
Wife: Alice Herget Barrow
Children: Miriam, Lois, Jane, Nigel Bruce, Jr. ("Tex")
Education: Snow Hill Public Schools, Moody Bible Institute, Northern Baptist Seminary, North Park College, Lewis Institute, Chicago Presbyterian College, and Texas A&M.
Ordained: September 1935 Central Conference
Pastored: 30 churches in NC & Texas
Publications: Among them is "History of Free Will Baptist" for Seminary Credit and "Special Education and Its Needs in our Society" for Education Dept. at Texas A&M.
Denominational Work: Moderator of Union Meetings of Central Conference Convention of OFWB; Texas FWB Convention; and Moderator of the National Association of FWB; Manager of Free Will Baptist Press, served on Free Will Baptist Press Board, Mount Olive College Board, Mission Board.

Editor's Thoughts

C. H. Overman

Completing The Circle?

In discussing my return to the Free Will Baptist Press as Editor, someone remarked (I can't remember who), "Maybe you're completing the circle." It may be true. I'm not too sure, since much of my later life has been one of what I call "backtracking." In the past few years, it has been my privilege to return to two former pastorates, and now I find myself back in the same editor's office. The office is just fine. I even have a new chair due to the kind consideration of Cliff Gray, director of the Press. With the kind help of my wife, Ruby, the office has had a thorough cleaning. I have also added my personal touch of certain things, including pictures of my grandchildren, a few plaques, some resource books, and a few other personal matters to create my own "comfort zone." However, I'm not sure at this early stage just how comfortable things will be.

The memory of things past is returning. I remember the deadlines of the past which never end. There's always the cycle of the quarterlies, with certain dates to complete the editing, to get everything ready for the typesetter and then the printer. There's the editorial markings and the questions of punctuation, grammar, spelling, type size, the filling of certain number of pages, plus a thousand other questions that will arise from week to week. But as always, with the help of a great staff of workers, we will get it done, and everything will work out just fine.

How well I remember the editorials of those years from 1957 until 1969. Some of them dealt with the problems of that day, while others were of a devotional type. As Assistant Editor, serving under the Reverend J. O. Fort, editorial writing was shared by each of us; however, when I became editor, most of the editorial writing was my responsibility. Not everything we discussed was accepted by all our readers, and such was not our sole intention in each and every discussion.

We have come a long way since those days of the Linotypes and lead "pigs," but some things remain the same, such as those things already alluded to. There's something else that has remained basically the same, and that's the purpose of this institution — The Free Will Baptist Press. This purpose is stated in its charter:

"The purposes for which the corporation is organized are: to write, publish and distribute any and all religious and educational literature for the Free Will Baptist denomination, including, but not limited to, Sunday school quarterlies, teachers' quarterlies, magazines, religious books, periodicals, newspapers, tracts, leaflets and posters of the denomination; church programs; schedules; minutes of the church, union, conference or convention meetings; hymnals, and other such religious and educational materials and miscellaneous printing as the Board of Directors shall deem desirable for use by the Free Will Baptist or other denominations."

The purpose of "The Free Will Baptist" is clearly stated in each issue on the Contents page, and begins: "The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists,..." As editor, I will endeavor to fulfill this purpose. I do not expect a "flowery bed of ease." There will surely be hurdles along the way; however, these can be overcome, and we will do so with the help, cooperation, understanding and prayers of Original Free Will Baptists. You did it before, and I know you will do it again.

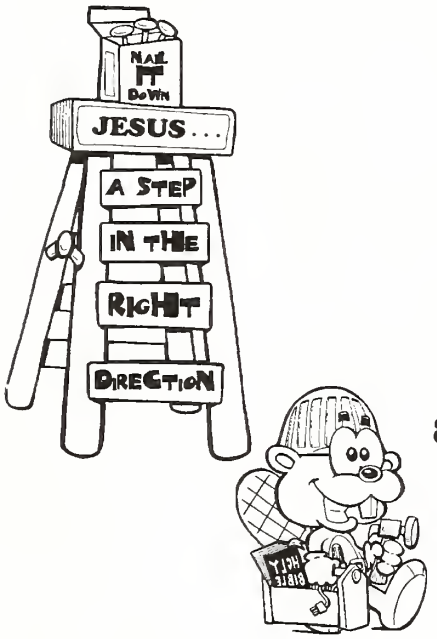
My name first appeared as Assistant Editor in the November 27, 1957 issue of "The Free Will Baptist." Previous to that issue I had written several editorials. In the December issue of that same year, there was a "News Note" pertaining to my resignation as pastor of Spring Branch Church in order to begin the work at the Press. I then stated, "It has been my sincere desire to give to my Lord and denomination the very best I have in service through whatever doors He might open to me." Throughout the years, He has opened many doors of service, for which I am grateful. He has been good to me in so many ways. Each phase has been a learning experience and through it all His presence has sustained. In this phase, as I perhaps make that circle complete, He will continue to guide me and I will enjoy it again.

An Excellent Job

I personally wish to express my appreciation to Mrs. Sheryll Wood for her services rendered to the FWB Press from October `96 through January `97, as interim editor. All those who worked with her share the same sentiments. Sheryll very capably delved into the task, thus making my beginning much easier.

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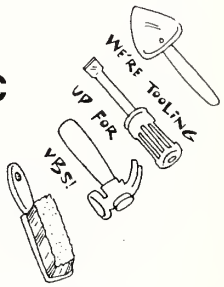


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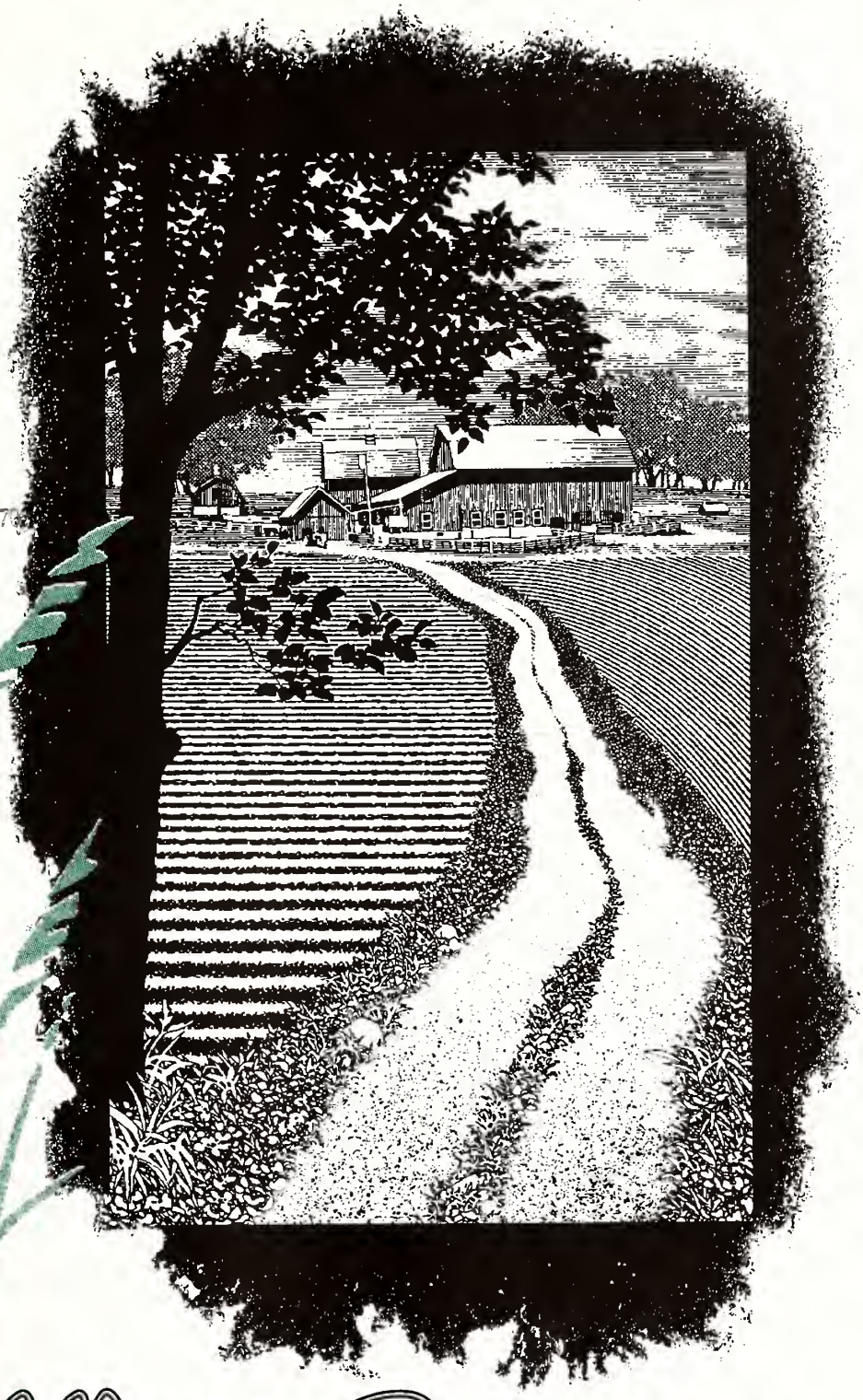
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The Free Will Baptist

APRIL 1997

Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

TERMS DEFINED — Editors and Editorials

At times we need to refresh our minds on matters close to us. We thought about this in reference to the meaning of the word "Editor" and the term "Editorial." One of the responsibilities of an editor is his/her writing of the editorial. While serving as editor in the sixties, the editorials fell into about three categories: the inspirational type that usually dealt with comments on certain passages of Scripture, those dealing with issues of the day, and some were related to places, people, and events.

Just what is the Editor's job? Webster's Third World Dictionary defines an editor as: "a. one who revises, corrects or arranges the contents and style of the literary, artistic, or musical work of others for publication or presentation. b. one who alters or revises another's work to make it conform to some standard or serve a particular purpose. c. one who directs or supervises the expressive policies or the preparation of a publication;" also, "one who has contextual supervision of a section, special department, or feature of a publication." These definitions certainly describe what we have perceived as the responsibilities of this office and ministry. The reality is, however, that the work and responsibility could never be accomplished without the capable and corporative efforts of an editorial staff who understands that it is upon the shoulders of the Editor that the responsibility falls, and criticisms will first of all come his way. We regret each error and each misprint; however, it is our goal to become error free, but so far in all of my experiences, it simply has not happened. Quite often when we feel we have done our best, mistakes will take place. We ask our readers to be kind and gentle with us, and if there are criticisms, let them be constructive.

Next, what is an editorial? Again, we look to Webster's, which says: "A newspaper or periodical article that is usually given a special or significant place and that intentionally expresses the views of those in control of the publication on a matter of current interest."

For many years "The Free Will Baptist" (not the "Baptist" as we sometimes call it) has served as a source of news and information for Original Free Will Baptists. It began almost 125 years ago when the first issue was printed in Fremont, NC. Through the years, "The Free Will Baptist" has had its ups and downs. Since that day in 1873 at Union Grove Church, Wayne County, when the General Conference passed a resolution which called for the "beginning of a church organ," this publication has been a guiding force for this denomination. In times of crisis, individuals have stepped forth to express themselves in its pages. In addition to the editors of the past, individuals such as the Revs. J. C. Griffin and Willet Moretz made their contributions in their regular columns of this publication. In this office are bound volumes of "The Free Will Baptist," beginning with the year 1936. To pull a volume off the shelf and scan through it is to get a glance of history—the history of individual's lives, and especially the story of our churches and the work of our denomination. There's always the editorials in which the editors sought to express the feelings and very heartbeat of Free Will Baptists.

In the editorials to come, we will be dealing with the challenges before us. From time to time there will be issues that concern us all. We possibly will be dealing with matters that are controversial, and readers no doubt will have varying opinions. We will be open to those opinions, as long as there is a spirit of Christian love. We desire to hear from our subscribers as we move along in this somewhat new and different venture. We will endeavor to fulfill the role of Editor, and we will editorialize in a spirit of Christian love and understanding.

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A Special "Thanks"

By the time this issue goes out, I will be completing my first two months as editor. I am deeply appreciative to all the employees of the Free Will Baptist Press for their acceptance of this "newcomer," and the cooperative spirit that has been exemplified. To executive director Cliff Gray, to graphic arts manager Robert Hadden, to editorial assistants Mary Ann and Patricia, to graphic designers Julie and Sheila, "thank you" for your patience and understanding in the period of acclimation. You have helped me through the maze. The work is now beginning to come into focus, and each of you has helped to make it possible.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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NEXT MONTH

May Is Children's Home Month

April is Home Missions and Evangelism Month

Kings Cross Roads — Dedicates New Church Building

by the Rev. Bruce Jones, Pastor

You'll leave King's Cross Road saying, "I've had a little taste of Heaven."

Sunday, October 27, 1996 was an exciting time for the members of King's Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church. It was a dream come true, as 322 people gathered to dedicate a new 446 seat sanctuary to the Lord.

The King's Cross Roads Church was organized on May 19, 1888, and met just the third Sunday in each month in a 30' x 40' building. This building received major renovations in the early 1950s, and in 1960 a couple of Sunday school rooms were added to the building.

Plans were begun in 1995 for a new 4400 square foot sanctuary to accommodate a growing congregation. The foundation was poured and construction began in May of 1996. The congregation had high hopes of being in the new sanctuary the third Sunday in September, which would be homecoming Sunday. Our area was hit twice during the construction period by hurricanes Bertha and Fran. Just a little over a week before Homecoming, Fran hit our area on Friday night September 6. Pitt County Communications sent out an alarm that there was a structure fire at King's Cross Roads. Then there was another message that a transformer was on fire at Kings Cross Roads. A fireman, responding to the call, stated that as he approached the Kings's Cross Roads area, the sky was aglow, as if the entire area were on fire. He said he just knew our entire facilities were ablaze. When he arrived at the church there was no transformer on fire, nor was there a structure fire, but a cloud with a big red glow hovered over the church. He said it was atmospheric gas. Maybe it was, but you will never convince me of that.



Pictured is both the old King's Cross Roads sanctuary and the new one on the right.

When God led the Israelites from Egypt to the Promise Land, He showed His presence by a cloud of fire at night. When God met the Israelites at Mt. Sinai, He showed His presence by a cloud of fire over the top of that mountain. God also showed His presence at the Tabernacle, and the Temple of Solomon by a cloud of fire. I will always believe that the cloud that hovered over our church that night was not atmospheric gas, but God reassuring us of His presence and His power as we made the transition from our old sanctuary to the new one.

With trees and power lines down, and our building not yet inspected, it looked as though we would not move in on September 15, Homecoming Sunday. Linemen dropped what they were doing and came to our Church to give us temporary service. The building inspector approved of our facilities and we had our first service in our new sanctuary Homecoming Sunday with 420 people in the morning worship service. We still had a few minor things to finish before our new facility was complete, so we decided to have a Dedication service at that time.

We gathered for our Dedication Service Sunday, October 27. The Rev. W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of our Convention participated in the dedication service, and commended the members of the church for their growth and their vision. He stated that King's Cross Roads was a country church, but that many people came from town to have their spritual needs met.

Other special guests included the Rev. Bruce Dudley, Executive Director of our Retirement Home Ministry, and Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director of our Sunday School Board.

So at 109 years old, what is it about this church that causes over 210 people to gather there every Sunday morning? Some attribute it to the "old time religion" that one can still find there, preached by a simple country preacher, from an Old King James Bible. Others say it's the fantastic music program, the youth program, the sweet fellowship, and the fact that you can feel God's presence in this place. Others say it's a combination of all these things.

What ever it is, people are drawn from Farmville, Fountain, Tarboro, Macclesfield, Walstonburg, Saratogo, Ayden, Winterville, Greenville, Grimesland, Bethel, and areas all in between. It's hard to put it into words, but one visit will answer it all. You'll leave King's Cross Roads saying, "I've had a little taste of Heaven."

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY

by Dr. Joseph Ingram, President
The Carolina Bible Institute

It seems there has been some discussion in church circles as to whether or not a man called of God should be "full time" or "part time" in the work of our Lord. In order to better understand the end results we must come to an agreement as to what these terms mean. Let us therefore define what we mean by "part time" or bivocational.

First of all, we must say that from our point of view, there is no such thing as a "part time" ministry. For one to be called of God is not only "full time," but a full commitment to Him for service. Hereafter in this discussion I shall use the term "bivocational," meaning a minister who serves God not only in a church, but also works at a secular job in order to support his family. Secular work is essential for him to pursue spiritual work. These are usually men who do not capture any headlines or call special attention to themselves, but do their work with little or no recognition for what they do. The majority of our churches in the Free Will Baptist denomination are churches that must depend on such men for their pastors. If it were not for these men, many of our churches would not exist today, and without them, these churches will not be here in the future, so let's take a look at some things they face. Granted, there may be some that devote all their time to the church work and there are some churches that could support a minister entirely for his service, yet they do not. It is not these that are discussed.

The bivocational pastor is a special type of person; men particularly gifted of God to enter into a new work, many times later in life, when it seems they are set as far as their life's vocation is concerned. They come from all walks of life with experiences that are especially helpful in the work of the local church. Some look at the bivocation as a temporary circumstance: only until they are able to be supported fully by the church they are serving. Others look at their calling as one that God knew their circumstance at the calling and are willing to make the sacrifice of the calling as a lifelong bivocation. This depending solely on the work and leadership of God in the future.

This type of ministry can relieve the financial pressure in a local church and all the ministry of God to be carried out in a community.

More than any other ministry, the bivocation minister or pastor faces demands that are unlike any other. The entire responsibility of the ministry falls on the shoulders of the minister. There is usually nobody he can turn to for assistance in the work of the church. If he can't do it, usually it does not get done or is postponed until later.

The bivocational pastor must be a highly motivated organizer to be successful in his church. Much of the time, he puts in a full day's work, and after that there is need for study in preparation for services Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and midweek prayer service. He is looked at as a "part time" pastor, but has duties that are "full time."

Time is a premium for him. Each moment is precious and must be planned and organized to get the most accomplished. On his day off from secular work, while others have time to spend with the family, play golf, or relax and recoup from the work, the bivocational pastor must use this time to get his church work done.

The visits to the hospital to pray for the sick or to homes to encourage the members in distress are always a problem to find time for, so these must be planned carefully during the time that is available while away from the secular job. There is the stress of being pulled between the responsibilities of the secular job from which he receives support and security for his family, and the call of God to do the work for the local church.

If you see the attendance drop, the offerings become lacking, it is always because the pastor is not giving enough of his time to the church in visiting, study, and prayer. The first thought is maybe we should consider a change in the leadership of the church, especially the pastor.

One of the difficult things for the bivocational minister is to see people give little or nothing to the work of the church when he and his family give everything, and then be accused of being mercenary because he works at a second job to meet the needs of his family. There are those of his peers who will criticize him for working at a secular job while they enjoy the results of some minister who struggled in the past to build a church that is able to give them the support necessary to devote full time to this calling. Not too many of the "full time" ministers today are in churches that they themselves built from the beginning.

The dilemma that many bivocational pastors today face is the view of fellow pastors that their calling and work is not a viable ministry. Some even seem to look at the bivocational minister as if God is punishing him for a lack of dedication and commitment. Let me remind you that Paul was a bivocational minister. He was a tentmaker when called and did not feel that he was to give this up, but use his talents and experiences to support himself and not be a burden on the churches he served.

For the bivocational minister, his wife also plays a very important role in his ministry. She is an exceptional person in that she must be willing to support her husband with a ministry of encouragement that shows in a willingness to give him up at times she feels a need for him as a husband. Many times she is the only person he has with whom to share his burdens.

Let me encourage those of you who are in a church that is pastored by a man of special calling to look closely at his work and show a renewed appreciation for him. Let him know by acts of kindness that he not only is special to God, but you too appreciate the many sacrifices he and his family are making to serve your church. It is a privilege for him to be your pastor, and likewise, it is a great privilege for you that he is willing to go the extra mile in order that God's love might be shared with you. Maybe you should give him the "Extra-Effort" award this Sunday for the services rendered. A simple "thank you" will go a long way.

I personally believe there is a place today in the work of our Lord for the bivocational minister as well as the full-time minister, and we should find our place in the work of the Kingdom of God and give our very best to fulfill God's will in the call to the ministry. (Reprinted by permission.)

Budget Time

It is church budget time! Many Original Free Will Baptist churches will be involved in the process of preparing a budget for 1997–98 during the next several weeks. It is often difficult for the finance committee to determine what to propose to the church; and getting the budget passed at the business meeting can be stressful. Some suggestions for the task are listed below:

Many people feel that money matters are just a necessary evil; however, the church budget is a statement of faith!

Remember that budgets, finances, and money matters are spiritual in nature.

Sometimes financial decisions are seen as negative and worldly in nature. Many people feel that money matters are just a necessary evil; however, the church budget is a statement of faith! The budget should reflect a conviction that God has called us to worship and serve Him. It should also demonstrate our faith in His ability to bless us so that we might bless others.

Begin the process with prayer.

Since budgeting is a spiritual exercise, it should begin with prayer. It is a good idea to remind the entire congregation of the spiritual nature of church finances and request that the people pray for the financial committee as they work. The church leadership should set the pace by including the budget process in public prayers.

The finance committee should include prayer time as a part of their work. Members of the committee should be encouraged to pray in preparation of the budget meeting. Time should be allotted for prayer at each meeting of the committee. Some prayer concerns could include:

- **God's direction for the church's ministry**
- **Vision for the future**
- **Faith to trust God**
- **Spiritual growth of the church, including faithfulness in stewardship**
- **The local outreach ministry of the church**
- **The denominational outreach of the church**
- **The pastor and other leaders**

Review last year's budget.

It is hard to know where you are going if you do not know where you are. Actual income and expenses should be compared to last year's projection. Sometimes it can be helpful to consider the percentage spent to date as an indicator of final projections for the total year. Another helpful tool is to look at the last 12 months to find help in deciding how the current year is likely to turn out.

The review is one tool that is helpful in determining the financial needs of the upcoming church year, however, it is only one tool. To simply budget funds based on the current year may suggest that we are not seeking to discover God's challenge to make a difference in the world! The question should not be how little we can get by with, but how much can we do with God's help. While it is appropriate for some items to be increased enough to take care of inflation, others require a more serious look.

The pastor's salary should be fair and equitable.

While serving as the pastor of a local church is a ministry, the local church should provide an adequate salary for the person providing the ministry. The Bible is clear that a workman is worthy of his hire. The church is responsible for treating the pastor appropriately. The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program provides a useful guideline entitled, "Basic Compensation," to assist churches and ministers in salary concerns. The finance committee should always give due consideration to raises for the pastor on two fronts, cost of living and merit. The cost of living increases each year, meaning that without an increase, the pastor actually gets a cut in salary (his money buys less). Most business have learned that an investment in leadership will pay high dividends. The pastor that has sufficient financial support is more likely to feel good about his ministry and can respond to the members of the congregation out of the same love that they have expressed through their commitment to him.

The salary should be just that, a salary. In addition to salary, the church should offer benefits similar to those offered in the secular workplace. While benefits are a part of the total cost to the church, benefits are not salary. When most people discuss salaries, they do

not add the value of the benefits to what they are paid on a regular basis. Many are not even aware of the actual cost of the benefits.

The pastor should be reimbursed for any expense that he incurs in providing ministry. It is the responsibility of the church to pay the cost of ministering to the congregation. If the minister must pay the cost for the church, his salary is greatly diminished. On the other hand, when the church reimburses the pastor, it is definitely not a part of his salary! It is erroneous for the church to add salary, benefits, and expense reimbursement together and refer to it as the pastor's salary. Expenses, whether reimbursed after the fact of through an expense account, are the legitimate cost of the church. To think of expense reimbursement as salary is like finding a deduction in your paycheck for the cost of your employer providing tools or equipment for you to do your job!

Remember that denominational ministries are an outreach of your church.

The Original Free Will Baptist ministries were established at the request of churches to obey God's call to minister beyond the ability of the single local church. Our church covenant includes a commitment to support the denominational program of ministry. The annual report book provides information and budget requests from all of the ministries. Each church should prayerfully consider what she can do to further the cause of Christ through the denomination's ministries. The church should remember that the amount of ministry and the cost of doing ministry are increasing. It is often tempting to feel that all the money should be spent at home. Think about the message the church sends to its members by suggesting that only a normal amount be given to ministry outside of the local church! A generous church produces generous people.

The work is not over with proposing a budget.

The finance committee should take an active role in presenting the budget and encouraging the church to adopt it. The finance committee should also be involved in teaching stewardship and encouraging people to discover the joy of giving!

Preacher's Study Group: They Really Work!

All preachers go through stages in their ministry when they ask, "Where am I going? Personally, I can say that I have found a new and exciting direction. As a veteran of many hours before blank pages (and computer screens), I can at last say there is really a better way to prepare sermons.

Last year, I, along with four other fellow preachers, crowded into a church van and drove twenty hours to the National Preaching Summit in Indianapolis, Indiana. While at the Summit, Bob Russell, of the Southeast Christian Church of Louisville, KY, spoke on the value of Preachers' Study Groups. Simply put, Preacher's Study Groups are designed to be sources of sermon preparation, using the resources and ideas of other ministers. Preacher's Study Groups meet on a regular basis (most times weekly) and plan out sermons together for their respective congregations. This was the second time I had heard about the concept. The idea intrigued me.

Oftentimes, preachers put themselves through unnecessary grief and anxiety. As we returned home, my brother-in-law (and fellow preacher) discussed putting a preacher's study group together. He recommended a few preachers' in our area and decided to contact them. A few phone calls and three weeks later, we met for the first time.

The Early Stages: Is This Going To Work?

Even from the beginning, we all had our doubts if five preachers, all with various opinions and preaching styles, would be able to accomplish anything. The Holy Spirit has much to do with guiding our lives and hearts as we strive to serve Christ. We were pleasantly surprised that the chemistry of the group was almost perfect.

Those participating in the group come from a wide cross-section of backgrounds. Our ages ranged from 28 to 40. The churches where we minister range in size from 65 to 225 weekly; the age of the congregations from eight years old to over 150 years old. The diversity, however, created a unity.

What would each of us be able to contribute? We knew each other in varying degrees, but could these five personalities harmonize? What would we be able to contribute; what would we be responsible for during our meetings? Was there really a benefit in forming this group? The answers were soon discovered.

Five strongly opinionated men (we may not always be right, but we are never in doubt!) *can* work together for the cause of Christ. Each of us brings a different strength to the sermon preparation table.

The bonds we have made since May of 1996 have been a tremendous source of strength and blessing. We now have a built-in support group. How many times have preachers' needed someone to talk to on Monday morning, only to end up locking themselves in an office? All of us need someone who understands our feelings, our concerns and our fears. Our

Preacher's Study Group has met this need in our lives. The early questions were answered — yes, this was going to work.

Complementing Strengths and Weaknesses

Each member of our group has a strength, from which he contributes to our study. In return, the weaknesses of each respective preacher is bolstered by the others. For example, while one came as a good illustrator, another may have been weak on that point, but strong on outlining a passage. It is much easier to decide on an illustration when you have four hardened critics to try it out on before handing it to your congregations!

The axiom taught in Bible College rings true even today — "Give five different people the same text and you will get five different ideas on how to approach the topic." It is the blending of those ideas that really creates the sermon. Though each preacher may not have his outline used the following Sunday, all of us come away with several ideas for future sermons.

"As Iron Sharpens Iron..."

Though none of us have ever mentioned it, our theme verse could be Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (*NIV*). The benefits of forming and committing to a study group have far outweighed the peripheral problems of time and distance. We came together as Christian men and rediscovered what Christian brotherhood does for the believer. Even if we came to no decision on what direction to take for a sermon, just the chance to sit and "hash it out" over a Pepsi was worth the trip. We always went home a little richer, a little wiser, and a little stronger.

The problems of time and distance were actually minor problems. Five different schedules are difficult to harmonize each week, but none of us would miss our "War room" sessions if we could help it. Since its inception, the Preacher's Study Group has invested time and energy in friendships by getting together with our wives for a night out on the town. We have even attended a conference together. Deep bonds have been forged. These bonds will continue regardless if one or more of us even takes another ministry.

How Do I Begin A Group?

The first place you start is to take this idea to some of your ministry colleagues. There are probably countless preachers in your area who would jump at a chance like this. Find those who are willing to invest this time and give it a trial run. Chances are this may work for your group, or it may not. The personalities may not click, the schedules may not balance. But you will never know until you try. That is the purpose of this article — to encourage you to stretch out of a comfort zone and do something new.

We do not want you to miss out on something that could really strengthen your ministry, revolutionize your preaching, and enrich your congregation. This is such a rich resource. Don't let the opportunity pass by you.

There was one other problem that our group has to address. Once our group was off and running, our excitement caught the attention of other preachers. Some inquired about the possibility of joining our group. "Oh, no!" we thought. "What do we do now?" "Where do we draw the line for the size of our group? What is the proper number? When is one more too much?"

Each group has to decide on their own what will be the appropriate. For our particular group, five seemed to work best. We are also happy to report that those who wished to join our group have begun their own. This "brother" group has given good reports as to their progress.

Preacher's Study Groups really do work! The size of your congregation does not matter. You might not be preaching to 10,000 on Sunday morning. You may have just celebrated your thirtieth year in the ministry. You may just be embarking on a career in preaching. Regardless, God can still use your brothers to sharpen you. He also wants you to sharpen others.

"We always went home a little richer, a little wiser, and a litte stronger."

Ben Gregory, the writer of this article, is minister with the Country Side Church of Christ, Edenton, North Carolina. The other members of his preacher's study group are: Brent Nidiffer, minister of the Mt. Pleasant Christian Church, Greenville, NC; Al Perry, minister of the Zion's Chapel Church of Christ, Roper, NC; Tim Turner, ministers of the Old Ford Church of Christ, Washington, NC; and Mark Woolard Jr., minister of the Stoneybrook Church of Christ, Wilson, NC.

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

"Thanks Be To God"

by Rev. Owen Arthur

In last month's issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, Julia Gaskins wrote about generosity. Camp Vandemere is truly seeing the generosity of Free Will Baptist people. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says: "But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I feel that this verse of Scripture has come to pass for Camp Vandemere.

Last year the hurricane damage was much, but we felt that the Lord would give us the victory to overcome. This he is doing! We needed a new swimming pool and God supplied this need. Antioch Church (Eastern) gave the funds to buy a new pool. We are able to buy one larger than the one that was destroyed. We needed a new freezer and as Julia wrote last month, God has supplied that need. St. Mary's Church (Eastern) had a Camp Vandemere day and from this sent us enough to buy a new freezer. Several other churches have given "Generously" and we would like to say thank you. Our Lord is giving the victory.

"But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"
1 Corinthians 15:57.

There is just one need I would like to mention. We need a new dietician. The lady who worked for us last year was able to find a better position elsewhere. If you know of someone who would be interested in this position please contact the Rev. Owen Arthur, 919–633–1185, or our manager, Mr. Aldric Gaskins, 919–637–4949 home, 919–745–3171, camp. Please pray and ask the Lord to send us a good Christian to help us as our dietician.

Several events will be taking place at the Camp so please keep watching *The Free Will Baptist* for them. One of the first ones will be a fish fry that will take place at the camp on April 26 starting at 5 PM and lasting until 7 PM. For tickets you may call any board member or contact the two mentioned phone numbers in the previous paragraph. There will be a second one on May 24, same time and place; please mark your calendar. Bring your family and enjoy the meal and the good fellowship.

Don't forget the Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat June 6–7. Friday's services will start at 6 PM, come and spend the night at the camp and be prepared to receive a great blessing from the Lord. If you can't come Friday night, be sure you come on Saturday morning starting at 9 AM.

We have ordered new mattresses to go in the women's dorm. Plans are to work on Saturday to build new bunk beds for them. Last year the men's dorm received some new beds, so now it's the ladies' turn to have new beds and mattresses. We plan to build more at a later date when funds become available.

The camp is beginning to take on a fresh look for the new camping season. Both bathrooms have been painted as well as the lobby of the dorm. The Gilikin house has had a lot of spring cleaning done in it, and the grounds have had several trees cut that were blown down as well as many of the stumps ground. All this has been done by our manager, his wife, and many volunteers. Still there is much work to be done. Its like the old saying, "A man's work is from sun to sun, but a woman's work is never done." There is always something that needs to be done at the camp.

If your church would like to have a Camp Vandemere day and would like to have someone speak about the camp, we would be happy to do so. Please contact Mr. Aldric Gaskins, his number is listed above.

The Rev. Ralph Sumner has asked that all reservations be done through our manager. He feels since our manager is going to be the one to greet you and assist you when you arrive at camp, that it would be better to let him take care of all bookings. Please contact Mr. Aldric Gaskins or his wife Julia for all future reservations.

Let me say just a few words about our board members. Recently I challenged them to reach out and help with our financial need at the camp. I am pleased to say that several of them have and are still doing a fine job with this challenge. They have worked hard on this project and with many other projects and the Lord is blessing through their efforts.

Don't forget our main clean-up day on April 19 at 9 AM. Come and help us. Bring your rakes, lawn mowers, wheel barrows, weed eaters, and anything else you feel that you may be able to use to help us get the camp looking good for the new camping season. By doing this we don't have to spend valuable dollars that you have given us to get it done. Ladies we would like for you to come and help. The dorms will need cleaning, windows will need washing, and other things that ladies do much better than men. The camp will furnish lunch for all who come and help us work.

Once again let me say to all the churches, groups, and individuals who have given to help the camp with our hurricane damage, that we appreciate this and you making it possible for young people to have a Christian camp to go to where they can enjoy themselves and receive spiritual guidance.

Summer Schedule for 1997

April 19	Clean Up Day
June 6–7	Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat
June 9–13	Craig Simmons, Director Phone: 919–633–9838 2212 Fox Horn Road New Bern, NC 28562
June 16–20	Woman's Week: Audrey Quinn, Director Phone: 919–638–6406 461 Wintergreen Road Cove City, NC 28523
June 23–27	Open
June 30–July 4	Kevin Jackson, Director Phone: 910–298–3936 969 NC 241 Pink Hill, NC 28572
July 7–11	Eva Mae Clark, Director Phone: 919–637–5347 465 Half Moon Road New Bern, NC 28560
July 14–18	Stanley Buck, Director Phone: 919–823–3964 3200 Western Blvd. Tarboro, NC 27886
July 21–25	Joe Ratcliff, Director Phone: 919–244–0207 6280 US Hwy 17 N. Vanceboro, NC 28586
July 28–Aug. 1	Jason Moblin, Director Phone: 919–658–7170 634 Henderson Street Mt. Olive, NC 28365
August 4–8	Youth Missions Retreat Week Ray & Ginny Conner, Directors Phone: 919–223–4750 167 Holly Springs Road Newport, NC 28570

"O send out thy light and thy truth" (Psalms 43:3).

Camp Vandemere would like to extend a special invitation to our people to attend one of the weeks of camp scheduled for this summer. Or you may wish a youth group, church or family group to spend a weekend for a retreat. Our facilities are excellent for relaxation, fishing, crabbing, or boating.

The fees for a week during a schedule camp is $60. Each director may charge an activity fee, depending on his or her own plans.

A week of camp begins at 10:00 AM on Monday and closes by 10:00 AM on Friday.

If you visit for a day and desire to eat at the camp during a week of camp activities, breakfast is $3.50, lunch is $4.00, and supper is $5.00. There will be an additional charge for special meals.

We now have a family sleeping lodge for more privacy and comfort. The rates are $25.00 per night. Also, we have mobile or tent camper spaces with water and electricity and dump station privilege. The rates are $8.00 per unit per night.

Each camper is responsible for his own linens, towels, and personal toiletries items.

Some directors may wish to have off-campus trips. The camp will not be responsible for off-campus meals.

Your prayerful and financial support is encouraged. Donations may be sent to: Mrs. Judy Kennedy, 933 North NC 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

APPLICATION FOR CAMP VANDEMERE

Fill out completely and mail to Director in charge of the week you prefer, along with a $10 deposit (nonrefundable). The remainder will be due upon arrival at camp.

Name of Camper _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday _____ Sex _____ Grade Completed _____

Week of Camp Desired _____ Director _____

If give my permission for my child to participate in all activities at Camp except those noted below: _____

_____

Signed _____

(Parent's or Guardian's Permission)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, the undersigned am the ( ) parent or ( ) legal guardian of _____ and hereby authorize Camp Vandemere, Inc., in case of an emergency, to take my child to the doctor or hospital for treatment.

My signature will further authorize the hospital or licensed doctor to administer treatment in case of an emergency

_____

Signature

(It is understood that I will be contacted by telephone if at all possible.)

Phone number where I can be reached _____

Has your child had a tetanus shot? _____ When? _____

Is your child allergic to penicillin? ___ Other drugs? _____

Bee stings, poison ivy, poison oak etc.? _____

Other allergies? _____

On The Move With Layman's League

Dates to Remember

April 3	Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, FWB Headquarters, Ayden, NC, 7:00 PM
April 5	Spring Stretch, Mount Olive College
April 19	Cleanup, Camp Vandemere
April 26	Fish Fry, Camp Vandemere, 5–7 PM
May 3	Layman's League Singspiration, Juniper Chapel FWB Church, Vanceboro, NC, Supper 6:00 PM; Singspiration 7:00 PM *If you would like to sing contact Elmer Harrell (747–2894)
May 9	State Layman's Meeting *Need a Host Church
June 6–7	Spiritual Life Retreat

Registration for Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1997.

Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League. ($5.00).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Church: _____

Conference: _____

Home Telephone: _____

(Check appropriate blanks)

_____*I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 7, 1997.*

_____*I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 6, 1997.*

Please return this form to:
Mr. Elmer Harrell
502 S.E. 3rd Street
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Attention All Layman!

We have been asked to serve lunch at "Spring Stretch" on April 5, 1997 at Mount Olive College. We need your help. If you can help cook please contact Elmer Harrell at 747–2894. If you can make a donation toward the project, please send your contributions to Elmer Harrell, 502 SE Third Street, Snow Hill, NC 28580. Don't forget, we need your prayers. May God richly bless you.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE SPRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Camp Vandemere, North Carolina
June 7, 1997

Hebrews 11:6 "...without faith it is impossible to please...God...."

Theme: "Foundations of Faith"

Friday: June 6

6:00 PM	Fellowship and Sharing Time

Saturday: June 7

9:00–9:30 AM	Fellowship Time
9:30–10:15 AM	"Biblical Foundations of Faith" The Reverend David Parrish Pastor, New Hope Free Will Baptist Church
10:15–10:45 AM	Recreation and Fellowship
10:45–11:30 AM	"Examples of Biblical Faith" Mr. I. Z. ("Bud") Cobb Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
11:30–1:00 PM	Lunch and Recreation
1:00–1:45 PM	"The Life of Obedience by Faith" The Reverend Frank Harrison
1:45–2:15 PM	Recreation
2:15–2:45 PM	Prayer and Meditation
2:45–3:30 PM	Sharing Time
3:30 PM	Benedition

All sessions on Saturday will be at Camp Vandemere.

If you plan to stay overnight at Camp Vandemere, bring your sleeping bag and whatever else you will need to stay.

Bring you Bible with you. You will need it on Saturday.

For additional information, please contact:
Mr. Elmer Harrell, 502 S.E. 3rd Street, Snow Hill, NC 28580
or call (919) 747–2894

April 20, 1997
Home Missions
And Evangelism Sunday
Week of Prayer — April 14–20, 1997

With the success God has given us through the years, there is a "field white unto harvest" — lives needing a "touch" from a friend in Christ, our Spanish neighbors waiting to hear the good news, the H'mong still hungering for the gospel, and communities throughout our nation desiring a church.

The opportunities have come to begin a new Christian service whereby we will keep His command to go make disciples. We are committed to doing those things that are pleasing to our Lord.

Home Missions and Evangelism has been given a church building in Calypso, North Carolina. It is our intention to renovate this facility to begin our first Spanish Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church. Why in the town of Calypso?

1. A building has been made available.
2. The North Duplin School only about (1) mile away from our property now has 33% Spanish youth attending. There are 23% Spanish attending the Duplin County Schools.
3. God has provided us this opportunity to minister to the Spanish in that area.

We Are Inviting You And Your Church To Help In This Endeavor

We have made the decision not to borrow money for renovations, praying and believing that our people will provide the necessary funds for this project, and the beginning of a new mission/church in Havelock, North Carolina. Our goal for April is $75,000.00. We need to reach this goal to provide the funds for:

- Renovations the Calypso building.
- Beginning the Spanish ministry
- Beginning a new American Mission/ Church in Havelock, NC.
- Continual support for ongoing work.

Here Is What Your Church Can Do To Help

Anticipate in Our Week of Prayer
April 14–20, 1997

We are asking every Original Free Will Baptist to pray for this ministry as we begin:
—a new American Mission/Church in Havelock, North Carolina.
—the new endeavor to share the gospel with our Spanish neighbors.

Have Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday
April 20, 1997

On this Sunday, every church should
—Have special emphasis about our work and ministry.
—Have an ALTER PRAYER for this ministry and our new endeavors.
—Receive a LOVE OFFERING
(Help us reach our goal of $75,000.00)

We have not left the age of revival. God is everywhere working miracles. The only instruments He has are His churches and His people. It is NOW TIME for every member of our church to become involved in "doing those things that are pleasing in his sight."

We are looking forward to hearing from you and your church as we join hands in EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM.

The Gift of Real Property

The gift of real property and building was made by Pepper Worthington, and Michael Gauker Warning , to the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists on January 8, 1997. This property in Calypso, North Carolina, has a value of $48,500. The plans are to rennovate the building so it can be used for the Board's newest endeavor in developing a Spanish mission church for Original Free Will Baptists. For more information call the Executive Director, David Charles Hansley at 746-4963 or in Kinston at 523–8697.





Wilson Receives Duty To God Award

The Scouting Commission for Original Free Will Baptists is proud to announce the recipient of the second "Duty of God" award to Raymond "Lee" Wilson, Jr. Lee received the award on February 9, 1997 during Scout Sunday services held at Juniper Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Vanceboro.

The award recognized Lee for his service in his church and scouts. Lee is a faithful and active member within the church and youth group. He is also treasurer for the Youth for Christ Rally of the Fifth Union in the Eastern District. Lee has shared his talents which the Lord has given him at the District and State Youth Conventions through Bible bowl, singing, and playing his trademark, the trumpet. Lee recognizes the importance of his faith and decided to work on the God and Country program as a part of his scouting. Lee learned a great deal about his church, denomination and faith as he completed the nine month program. He completed the God and Country program in the Fall of 1996 and received the award during Scout Sunday also.

Just as the following words are inscribed on the "Duty to God" plaque, they are also shown through Lee's commitment to Christ and Scouting:

"In Recognition of Service and Devotion to the ideals and principles of Boy Scouts of America and your Christian Faith."

Wilson Earns Eagle Scout Award

Boy Scout Troop 58 recently held an Eagle Scout Court on Honor to recognize Raymond "Lee" Wilson, Jr. for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Friends and family members honored Lee with a "good old-fashioned" picnic lunch.

To obtain the rank of Eagle, a scout must plan, organize and carry out a project worthy of an Eagle Scout, serve actively in a troop position for a period of six months after becoming a Life Scout, earn 22 merit badges, 11 which are required, appear before a board of review, and show scout spirit. Less than 2 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle rank.

Lee joined Cub Scout Pack 58 at the age of seven. As a cub scout, he earned the Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos badges. He also received numerous beads, patches, and pins working on the electives and achievements. Lee earned the Arrow of Light award as a Cub Scout before joining Troop 58 in June of 1991.

As a boy scout, Lee, earned a total of 29 merit badges, served as troop guide, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and continues to serve as senior patrol leader. Lee was inducted into the "Order of the Arrow," a scouting fraternity in Spring 1995. Lee earned the God and Country Award in the Fall of 1996. Lee chose as his Eagle project to build the homecoming table at Juniper Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church. He planned, developed, and held a community car wash to raise funds. The car wash was so successful, three picnic tables were also purchased for the church.

Because of his outstanding service to scouting and his faith, Lee, received the "Duty to God" award from the Scouting Commission for Original Free Will Baptists, presented by the Rev. David Charles Hansley. He is the first young person to receive this award.

Eagle Scout Lee Wilson is a junior at West Craven High School. He works part-time at Taylor's IGA. He is a member of the Tennis Team, Photography Club, National Honor Society, and trumpet co-section leader with the West Craven Marching Eagles. Lee is also a member of Juniper Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church where he participates in the youth and adult choirs and plays the trumpet in the Youth Ensemble. He has served as secretary and presently as treasurer for the Fifth Union of the Eastern District Youth for Christ Rally.

Lee is the son of Raymond and Cheryl Wilson. His brother, Phillip, is a wolf in Pack 58 and plans to continue in the family's scouting tradition. Lee is the grandson of Ray and Shirley Fillingame, Earl and Irene Smith, Charlie Wilson and Ernestine Valenti.

The Call To Renewal
2 Chronicles 7:14

VISION 2000
EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM

10
REASONS
Why We Should Pray For The Ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism

1. Reaching the unsaved
2. Planting Churches
3. Evangelism — Mobile Ministry
4. Opportunity for Harvest — Discipleship Training.
5. Church Growth/Life — Line Ministry
6. Denominational Potential and Growth
7. Special Ministries — Ethnic, Migrant, & Deaf
8. Touching Lives Corps — People Helping People
9. Scouting — Reaching the Family
10. Following the Great Commission

"TOUCHING LIVES FOR A LIFETIME"

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

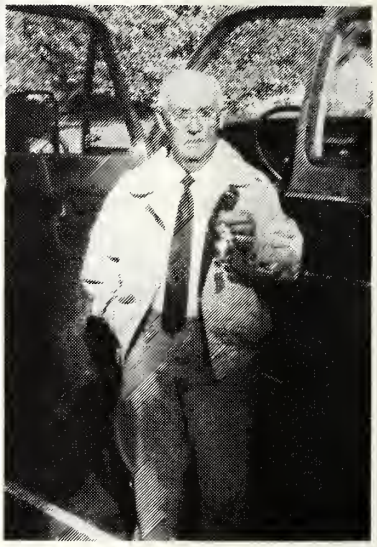


Old Canoe Creek Mission/Church of St. Cloud, Florida. (above)



The Rev. and Mrs. Everett Harper as they visit with the congregation at Old Canoe Creek Mission/ Church in St. Cloud, Florida. (above)

PHOTO PROFILE
EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM



Mr. Stanley Jenkins, Trustee of Kinston First Church, presents keys to van which was donated to Home Missions and Evangelism. (above)



H'mong children dressed in traditional dress for celebration occasions. (above)



The Rev. and Mrs. Kevin Moua, singing for a wedding in Fresco, California. The Rev. Moua is a graduate of Mount Olive College and serves as assitant to the LEC in Fresco. (right)



Their first Sunday to church. The Rev. Brock, Director/Pastor of Hillside Mission/ Church of Grifton, NC, with his twin grandsons. (left)



One of the Youth Sunday school classes of the Lao Evangelical Church in Merced, California.
(above)



Lao Evangelical Church of Merced, California continues to worship in a home. (above)



The Rev. Buddy Sasser, pastor of New Bethlehem Church near Grantsboro, NC, stands in front of the Lao Evangelical Church of Stockton, California. (above)



Computer donated to the Lao Evangelical Church Headquarters by the Sound View Original Free Will Baptist Church near Newport, North Carolina. Standing — The Rev. Tu Moua, President, seating — Mr. Tuoa Moua. (above)



The Rev. Freddie Edwards, Director/Pastor of Charity Original Free Will Baptist Mission/ Church of Whiteville, NC standing in front of dwelling being used for church. (above)



Cambodian Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church of Moreno Valley, California. (above)



Executive Director, David C. Hansely speaks at Worship Service in rented facilities in Porterville, California. Mr. Lee is translator and worship leader. (above)



Youth of the Serecta Original Free Will Baptist Church — Presenting a bucket of coins for Home Missions and Evangelism.



Lao Evangelical Church Fresno, California also Headquarter for LEC.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE DEDICATES BRASWELL SCHOLARSHIP AND UNVEILS TEACHER PROGRAM

Dr. J. William Byrd announced details of a new teacher education program and a scholarship for students in the new program at a special dedication service at the United Methodist Church in Princeton on Sunday, March 9, 1997.

The Cooperative Teacher Education Program is a partnership between Mount Olive College and East Carolina University. Mount Olive will grant the degree with ECU providing teacher certification.

Byrd explained that students who aspire to be teachers will take courses leading to their baccalaureate degree at Mount Olive College, taking advantage of a smaller college's nurturing environment and close contact between faculty and students.

He also said that the business of teacher certification has become complex and was best accomplished by a larger state university. Because ECU has an established program for certifying teachers, students in the cooperative program will spend one year and one or two summer terms on the ECU campus taking courses relating directly to certification. This time at ECU includes a student teaching internship.

"This cooperative program is not just another teacher program," Byrd said. "It combines the best characteristics of both Mount Olive and ECU."

He said that both schools are embracing the cooperative as an alternative program and said that officials at ECU hope it will become a model program for other partnerships.

The announcement was made at the United Methodist Church in Princeton because it was the home church of Mr. and Mrs. Walter V. Braswell. The Braswells, who are both deceased, established The Jessie Dail and Walter Vernon Braswell Scholarship Endowment which will provide financial assistance for eligible students in the new cooperative program.

Friends of the Braswells from the Princeton area and officials from the college attended the dedication service. Mrs. Barbara Woodall Hinton spoke of her friendship with the Braswells. She described them as hard working, citing their 28 years of delivering the Goldsboro News-Argus to residents of Princeton in addition to Mrs. Braswell's teaching and Mr. Braswell's work with CP&L.

Mrs. Hinton recalled examples of Mrs. Braswell's unwavering devotion to her husband in his declining years, her strong faith, and the heavy load she carried.

Mrs. Braswell taught the fourth grade at Princeton Elementary School for 34 years. One of her former students was Mr. Earl Worley, now vice president of the Kenly Savings Bank, who described the traditional values and standards she maintained in her classroom and exemplified in her own life.

"My hope is that those who benefit from the Braswell scholarship will come to know Mrs. Braswell and her values," Worley said. "She was an exceptional person. Her memory will live on. I'm proud to have been a part of it."

As part of the announcement and dedication, Byrd read a resolution by the college's board of trustees honoring the Braswells for their generosity.

"We are here dedicating this scholarship endowment to be faithful and true to the memory and expressed wishes of the Braswells," Byrd said. "This is a responsibility we take seriously."

Three others participated in the dedication. The Rev. Otto Hardt, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Princeton, welcomed guests and gave the invocation.

Dr. W. Burkette Raper, director of planned giving at Mount Olive College, spoke of the Braswell's wishes to establish a scholarship endowment at Mount Olive College.

He said that in each estate plan they wrote, "I have long desired to dispose of my estate in such a manner that young people could benefit from my life's work."

Finally, Tim Woodard, director of admissions at the college and a resident of Princeton, concluded the service with a prayer of dedication.

APRIL 1997 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2	MOC Trojans vs. Kinston Indians in Kinston	7 PM, Grainger Stadium
April 5	FWB Spring Stretch	8 AM, Mount Olive Campus
April 13	The Mount Olive College Choir	7 PM, First FWB Church, Greenville
April 17	Mount Olive College Singers Spring Fling	8 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
April 22	The Mount Olive College Choir Spring Concert	6 PM & 8 PM, Rodgers Chapel
April 24	Award Day Ceremony	Rodgers Chapel
April 24	Athletic Awards Banquet	6:30 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
April 26	Bible Bowl and Talent Competition	1 PM, Mount Olive Campus
May 2–4	Cragmont & MOC Alumni Reunion and Retreat	Cragmont
May 4	Commencement Worship Service	4 PM, College Hall

Summer School in Two Sessions

As in recent years, summer school at the Mount Olive campus will be in two sessions. The first session runs from May 26 to June 27, and the second session is from June 30 to August 1. Classes meet for one hour and fifty minutes five days a week, Monday through Friday.

During the first session, Dr. David Hines will be teaching REL 112 - Introduction to the New Testament from 10 AM to 11:50 AM and REL 490 - Practicum in Ministry at a time to be determined. The Rev. Frank Harrison will be teaching SOC 230 - Marriage & Family also at a time to be determined. Times are determined individually at a mutually agreeable time for students and the instructor.

During the second term, the Rev. Harrison will be teaching REL 111 - Introduction to the Old Testament from 10 AM to 11:50 AM and SOC 230 - Marriage & Family at a time to be determined. Dr. Hines will again offer REL 490 - Practicum in Ministry at a time to be determined.

For other course listings and an application, contact the college's Admissions Office by calling 919–658–2502, 919–658–7164 or 800–653–0854.

Cragmont/Mount Olive Reunion

If you were a Cragmont camper or Mount Olive College student, a group is getting together at Cragmont Assembly at Black Mountain, Friday through Sunday, May 2–4. It is $50 per person. Children five and under are free.

"We'll examine the common thread that binds us together," said Dianne Riley, MOC's director of alumni relations.

For information or to sign-up, contact Dianne Riley (919–658–2502) or John and Arlinda Williams at Cragmont.

Graduation Split into Two Sessions

Because of an anticipated large number of graduates this year, graduation exercises will be held in two sessions on Saturday, May 10.

The first graduation exercise will be at 10 AM in College Hall for graduates from the Mount Olive campus's traditional four-year program, for graduates from MOC's programs at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and for graduates from the college's Criminal Justice Program.

The second graduation exercise of the day will be at 2:30 PM, also in College Hall, for graduates from MOC's program in New Bern and Wilmington and from the Mount Olive campus evening program.

Dr. A. Hope Williams, president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, will be the speaker for both ceremonies.

The commencement worship service for all graduates will be on Sunday, May 4, at 4:00 PM in College Hall.

Dr. Billy R. Yawn, pastor of Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church Fremont, will speak at the commencement worship service.

About 430 students are expected to graduate this May. Last year 235 students graduated. The two-session graduation was deemed necessary to accommodate the graduates, relatives and friends without having to impose limits on the number of guests. If predictions prove accurate, 1997s graduation will be a record high and another milestone for Mount Olive College.

Students Scatter on Spring Break

Mount Olive students scattered during spring break which began February 28 and ended March 9. One group traveled to Europe and two other groups from the college went to Florida.

We are especially pleased to announce that nine MOC students and an instructor visited Paris, France, and Madrid, Spain. Ms. Karine Sparrow-Ginter, assistant professor of foreign languages, escorted and directed Mount Olive's first educational travel abroad experience. Although foreign travel is new for the college, it is something that Ms. Sparrow-Ginter has been doing with students from East Carolina University and NC Wesleyan for 28 years.

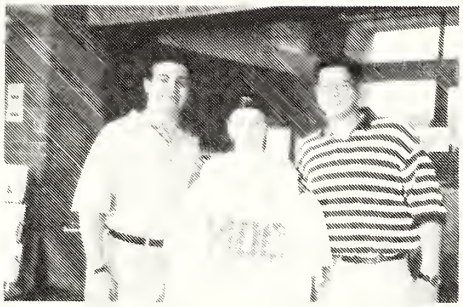
The group's itinerary was ambitious. It included world class museums, such as the Louvre, famous churches, such as Notre Dame and Sacre Coeur, and the sights of the Eiffel Tower, the grand Champs Elysees, Montmartre, and the palace of Versailles. The group then took an overnight train to Madrid where they visited the Prado, a famous art gallery, the Royal Palace, and the medieval walled-city of Toledo.

We're very excited for the experience these students received, and we are grateful to Ms. Sparrow-Ginter for making it possible. A foreign travel experience is something the college has wanted to offer students for a long time, and now it is a reality. We hope to offer similar travel experiences in the future.

Other students were out spreading the college's good name far and wide. The Mount Olive College Singers were in Florida, March 1–7. They gave workshops and demonstrations at six high schools and a performance at a shopping mall. The women's softball team also headed south to the sunshine state. The team sharpened their skills and gained valuable experience playing 12 games in six days.

The men's baseball team got no break as it played nine games. Likewise, the men and women's tennis teams and the golf team were all busy over the break.

Church Day at Mount Olive College



Vernon Herring from White Oak Grove FWB Church, 3–point shooting champ!



Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, with Charles Strickland from Pleasant Grove FWB Church, and MOC Trojan mascot.



Jason Rowe from Raines Crossroads FWB Church was the foul shooting champ!



Pine Level FWB Church — the largest group!



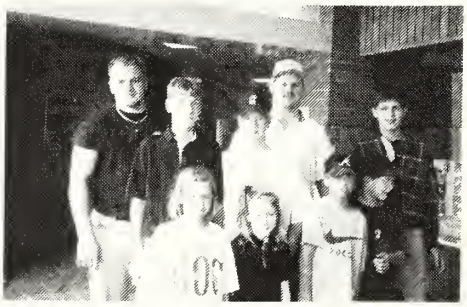
Time Woodard congratulates...



White Oak Grove FWB Church.



Cross Ridge FWB Church.



Shady Grove FWB Church.



Rains Cross Roads FWB Church.



Johnston Union FWB Church.



Roberts Grove FWB Church.



Trojan mascot with children from various FWB churches.

The Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture



< Dr. Bruce P. Powers, Associate Dean, at the Campbell University Divinity School, was the guest lecturer at the Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture held at Mount Olive College on February 25. Pictured here (from the top left) are: Dr. K. David Hines, chairman of the college's Department of Religion; Dr. Powers; the Rev. Frank Harrison, the college's campus minister; (from the bottom left) Mrs. Dianne Riley, MOC's director of alumni relations,and Mrs. Barbara Harrison, wife of Mr. Harrison.



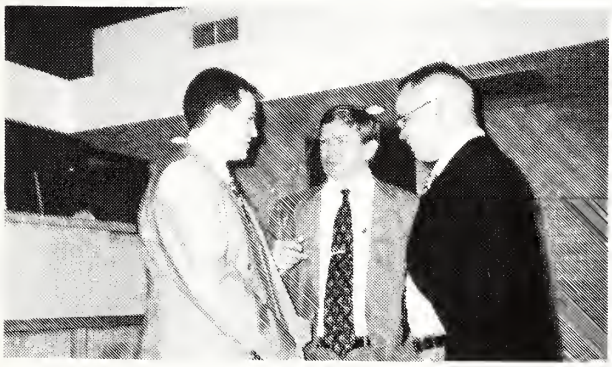
Among the approximately 100 guests who attended the lecture > series were: Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hunt, Sr., and the Rev. J.B. Narron. Speaking with the Hunts is Mr. Lloyd Jones, a trustee of the college.



< The Harrison Lecture consisted of a lecture and worship service in the morning and a luncheon and lecture in the afternoon. Here, attendees break for lunch and move from Rodgers Chapel to the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center for the luncheon and fellowship. The theme for the day-long conference was "Reaching and Teaching People in the 21st Century."



Dr. David Hines introduces Dr. Powell to minsterial student > Brad Williamson from Rocky Mount FWB Church.



< The Rev. Calvin Heath (center), MOC alumni and pastor of Black Jack FWB Church, chats with Joey Williams (on left), pastor of Rose of Sharon FWB Church, and Steven Hadder, St. Mary's FWB Church.



Enjoying food and fellowship are pastors (from left to right): > Philip Boykin, Lee's Chapel FWB Church; Greg Mills, Juniper Chapel FWB Church; Chris Singleton, Beuleville FWB Church, and Calvin Heath, Black Jack FWB Church.

look at what's coming up in **April**

SUN	MON	TUE	
30	31	1 *April Fools Day*	2
6 *Daylight Savings — Set ahead 1 hour*	7	8 Home Missions and Evangelism Board Meeting	9
13 The Mount Olive College Choir, First FWB Church, Greenville 7:00 PM	14	15 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting	16 ***Home Mission***
20 ***Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday***	21	22 MOC Choir Spring Concert, Rodger's Chapel, 6 PM & 8 PM	23 ***Philippines***
27	28	29 MOC Classes End	30 ***Philippines Short-Term Mission***

ncerns _____

Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
ern Auxiliary Pleasant Hill)	**3** 7:00 PM Layman's League Executive Board	**4**	**5** **Spring Stretch** held at MOC Pee Dee Auxiliary Cape Fear District Youth Meeting Robert's Grove, 6:00 PM
ar Auxiliary, FWB Church, n Grove, NC	**10**	**11**	**12** Albemarle Auxiliary
	17 MOC Singers Spring Fling, Lois K. Murphey Regional Center 8:00 PM	**18**	**19** Piedmont Auxiliary Camp Vandemere Clean-Up Day, 9:00 AM ***Philippines Short...***
	Evangelisms Week of Prayer (April 14–20)		
	24	**25**	**26** Bible Bowl & Talent Competition, MOC Campus, 1 PM Layman's League Fish Fry, Camp Vandmere, 5–7 PM
Term Mission			
Exams Begin	1	2	3

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Children's Home

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home is currently working on a new campaign for Children's Home Month. This campaign was designed in an effort to raise awareness of Children's Home month in May and increase church support. Details of the campaign have been mailed to pastors and packets of information and the tools needed to help make it a success will be mailed by the end of April.

We Want You To:

- Pray for the Children's Home ministry.
- Encourage each family in your church to save their change during Children's Home month. We will provide change bags for everyone to collect in.
- Designate May 4th as Children's Home Sunday in your church. We will provide bulletin inserts to promote the campaign to your congregation.
- Support the Children's Home in this campaign.

This Opportunity Will:

- Encourage families to work together collecting their change.
- Provide youth and new members the opportunity to learn about the Children's Home.
- Increase awareness of your child care ministry.
- Increase financial support from churches.

At the end of May all collection bags will be turned into the church and deposited in the church treasure. The church will send the Children's Home a check for the amount collected. Please be in prayer for our ministry as we continue to serve more children and families. Thank you so much for the support you give to us to make a difference in the lives of children.

If you did not receive information about our new campaign and/or need additional information please contact:
Gary Lee, Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC 27557, (919) 235–2161

Mark your Calendar
May Is Children's Home Month

Minister's Program

Pictured is Curtis Smith, CPA, as he presents information to Free Will Baptist ministers pertaining to tax laws. The Tax Seminar is conducted each year by the Minister's Program. This one was held on February 13, 1997. A good number of ministers and lay persons were in attendance.



Give your youth an opportunity to experience revival.

This summer there are six youth conferences scheduled to accommodate ages that range from 9–18. These conferences all share common goals. (1) To proclaim the gospel to any young person who may not know Christ. (2) To teach the Word of God so that those who are already Christians may grow in their spiritual lives. (3) To show the youth of our day that recreation and times of fun do exist in the life of the Christian.

Each and every day the young people who attend a conference are involved in Bible classes each morning, recreation in the afternoon, worship services at night. These are very basic but much needed attributes of the Christian's life. At home in their normal routine sometimes people forget to include these things in their lives. It is our fervent prayer that those attending a youth conference at Cragmont will be grounded in their faith, making them stronger Christians when they leave their mountaintop experiences.

We who are involved in the church and the Christian life talk about revival and how much revival is needed in today's world. Revival is exactly what happens to the young people who come to Cragmont. Cragmont is a place where God is allowed the chance to break in upon an individual's world that is accustomed to many other things, the cares of school, home, etc. At Cragmont these cares and worries can be put aside for a short time giving more time to turn to God.

Cragmont is but an extension of all the churches of our denomination. Your young people can benefit from a week at Cragmont. Listed are all the weeks of summer conferences along with the person you should contact for registration procedures. Give your youth a week of revival. Sign up now while there is plenty of room.

Common Threads

May 2–4, 1997

Cragmont Assembly — Black Mountain, North Carolina

Were you ever a Cragmont camper? Were you a Mount Olive College student? Then let's get together and find out what it is the two have in common. We'll look at old pictures, show old slides, laugh at old videos and weave a wonderful weekend with common threads that bind us together in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina at Cragmont.

Friday evening through Sunday brunch and two nights lodging are all covered by the $50/person retreat fee. Cragmont Club members may apply their benefits toward this retreat and children five years old and under may attend free.

As Alumni of both places, you are eligible to join the fun. You will be hosted by Dianne Riley of MOC and John and Arlinda Williams of Cragmont. So bring the family and join un on our new retreat!

Registration Form: Common Threads Retreat
Please fill out the form below, clip it and send it to:
Common Threads, c/o Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ No in Family _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Fax _____

How Many Years as a Cragmont Camper? _____

How Many Years at Mount Olive? _____

Morning Star
April 4–6, 1997
Teresa Ball (919–524–4677)
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

June Woman's Aux. Conf.
June 2–7, 1997
Teresa Ball (919–524–4677)
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Minister's Conf.
June 9–12, 1997
Doug Skinner (919–596–2456)
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703

Christian Cadet Conf.
June 16–21, 1997
Gary Bailey (919–735–3916)
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier Conf. (YFA)
June 23–28, 1997
Scott and Janie Sowers
(919–321–7542)
Post Office Box 639
Bell Arthur, NC 27811

Youth Frontier Conf. (AFC)
June 30–July 5, 1997
Frankie Baggett (919–746–3534)
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II Conf.
July 7–12, 1997
Chris Singleton (910–298–3520)
Post Office Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I Conf.
July 14–19, 1997
Bryant Hines (919–683–3436)
Post Office Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Young People's Bible Conf.
July 21–26, 1997
Jesse Fulcher (919–223–5836)
144 Holly Springs Road
Newport, NC 28570

August Woman's Aux. Conf.
July 28–August 2, 1997
Teresa Ball (919–524–4677)
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Church Finance Association, Inc., met on February 11, 1997, at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC. Items of business included the election of Directors, receiving of the Financial Report, and the adoption of the Revision of Bylaws.

Membership in the Church Finance Association is open to "any Original Free Will Baptist person, church, corporation or unincorporated association who has paid...the sum of $25.00 in the purchase of a certificate of membership."

Growth of the Association is evidenced in its total assets which now exceeds two million dollars.

Following is the address presented by the Director, the Rev. Donald Fader.

Members and directors, 1996 was a good year for the Church Financial Association and the borrowers and depositors that we serve. The investment you have made in this Association through the purchase of memberships has given us the resources over the years to provide loans to the churches and ministries of our Convention. With the profit earned on these loans we have built a pool of funds that has allowed us to make more and more low cost loans available.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity that you have given me during this past year to be a part of this vibrant and dynamic organization. It has been an exciting 12 months and I have learned that I still have much to learn. We have many challenges facing us. During the past year we began the computerization of the Association's bookkeeping, which is necessary for our continued growth. We have also restated lending policy, proposed bylaw changes and increased our loans outstanding by 15%. Our operating expenses declined and our net income increased. Our troubled assets, delinquent loans, have declined considerably. Under the boards direction we have seen positive growth and a solid return on assets. Rates were adjusted slightly to meet the needs for the coming year.

One goal is to be able to meet the loan and deposit needs of our Convention. When a church needs funds for any project we want to be the primary provider. To do this we will need to find out from our churches what their needs are and then to develop and provide the products and services to meet those needs. We will also need to become a service oriented depository, being able to serve the short and long term deposit needs of our Convention members. For this to happen we must allow deposits and withdrawals on a transactional basis. A church should be able to deposit excess funds with us and know that next year or next month these funds will be available with just a phone call. In short we have to make it easy for churches and individuals to work with us because it is their money and we are competing with mega-national banks and holding companies that provide every conceivable service.

What they don't provide is the history of working with our Convention and a willingness to be flexible by making decisions that are not always in the business textbooks but are in the best interests of our people. This attitude has produced two notable results, one, no depositor has ever lost a penny with the Association and two, we have never foreclosed on a single loan.

With that said we must not only meet the deposit needs, but our churches will need to have the confidence that all their loans demands can be met by working with the Association. Technology will allow us to provide a greater range of products and services and to manage our assets in such a way that we are able to provide competitive programs in a profitable way. This profit is placed back into service by increasing our loan pool of funds available. By doing this we are able to keep rates and costs down. Most commercial institutions work toward a 15% return on assets, but we plan for a 4–6% return. This is a thin margin but it is enough to keep us profitable but low enough to provide value to our participants.

As we move to the next plateau we will face many challenges and risks, but again our pledge to you is that this Association will be managed in such a way that our depositors can have full confidence in the security of their deposits and that the borrowers will receive loans that are designed for their needs and are competitive in the marketplace.

Again thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this organization and the success we have enjoyed together. Pray for this work to continue so that we can "fund the vision" of our churches and ministries.



The Rev. Walter Reynolds at the annual meeting of Church Finance Association. Seated to the right is the Rev. Don Fader, director. Pictured also are other representatives who were present.



You Didn't Choose To Be Born

and you probably wouldn't choose to die either.

There is an implied truth in the title of this article. It is that we are alive because our parents chose to give us life and they were responsible for guiding our growth process until we became adults. It also implies that we are going to die. Death is not a very pleasant thought for most normal people, but each of us will die. Moreover, we have no one to guide our death process. We can, however, make some plans to deal with the inevitable.

Most of us have experienced the death of someone we loved and we know that it can be a traumatic experience. The loss is always genuine and often harsh. No manner of planning can reduce the loss, but proper planning can help soften the harshness. We are familiar with the planning that goes into the rearing of a child, but we pay little attention to planning for old age, retirement and death. One of the aims of Retirement Homes Ministry is to provide resources for proper planning which can help both the aging and the family of the aging. At the outset, it must be emphasized, that like most of life it will not happen by itself. Retirement Homes Ministry has several workshops which can help you to plan for retirement in ways that will lessen the burden to both you and your surviving family. **NOTICE** it is never too early or too late to begin planning.

One of the aims of Retirement Homes Ministry is to provide resources for proper planning which can help both the aging and the family of the aging.

Robert Browning said, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be." A beautiful poetic sentiment, but without proper attention, old age and retirement can be a frightening time. We have lived, giving our attention to making a living, rearing a family, serving our community and our church, but what now? It depends on you.

You have to make the choices that will guide you into and throughout retirement. Do you want to sit down and waste away? Do you want to find a part-time job? Will you need to have a part-time job in order to meet your monthly expenses? The cost of living does not stop just because you have retired.

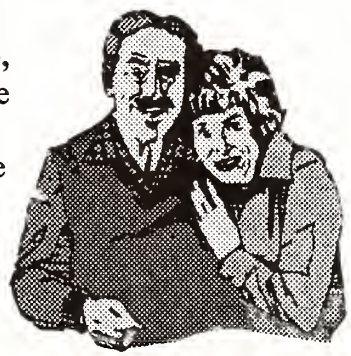
Do you really know and understand all the issues that you will face in retirement? If any of these questions concern you, you might need assistance in answering them for yourself.

In addition, who will make the necessary arrangements if you are injured or taken seriously ill? Will the choices made be pleasing to you, and if not, why not? Is your spouse going to shoulder all these needs alone or will the children help? Suppose your health situation so drastically changes that you can no longer look after your own personal needs? Does your spouse and / or your children know your wishes in any emergency or changing situation? The questions are almost endless and sometimes confusing, but there is help available.

Consider for a moment, that you have a parent or grandparent for whom you will be responsible. What do you know about their wishes? Do you or the parent find discussion of the needs difficult? *Now think on these things.* I am not trying to portray the needs more dramatically than necessary. These issues are extremely important and should be addressed openly and honestly.

Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes Ministry has workshops and reference resources that can help, but you must ask. Call and tell me about your situation, often I can suggest resources and / or workshops that would be beneficial. Invite me to come to your church and share with you about this ministry.

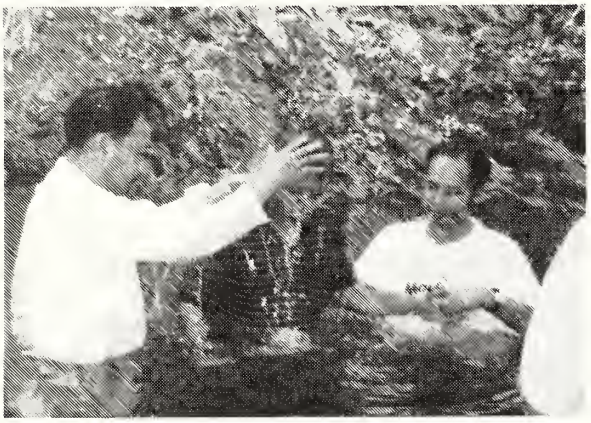
Call **(919) 746-4963,** or come by the office at the Headquarters in Ayden for a personal and private conversation.



Bruce Dudley
Executive Director

Obeying God's Command In Maranatha — Palawan, Philippines

— by Nora Diaz



"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" Matthew 28:19–20. This command of Jesus was given to every generation.

Last October 17, 1996, the Maranatha Free Will Baptist Church held a baptismal at Balsahan Falls, approximately 18 kilometers form Maranatha Church. There were four candidates who surrendered their lives to the Lord through water baptism; Amadeo Olape, Henry Olapo, Rosie Blance and Emelio Tihol. The baptism was officated by the Rev. Jaapal Ontong with the assistance of Pastor Silverio Erandio and Deacon Rene Pacia.

We would like to extend our warm thanks for your prayers as a part of this task. Please continue to pray for us.

Continuous Production of Church Workers in the Philippines

— by Zacarias I. Perocillo

The T.E.E. Graduates of February 1997 finished intensive training day and night for fifteen days under well qualified instructors. The subjects were: Bible Survey, Free Will Baptist Distinctives, Free Will Baptist History and Policy, Equipping the Saints, Evangelism and Church Administration, Homiletics, Church Dynamics, and Cell Group Church Seminar. These classes were also attended by pastors and members who were interested.

Ninety percent of the graduates have either finished college or have attended college; the rest are high school graduates. They have already experienced leadership in their respective local congregations. The production of quality workers who are divinely called to church growth. With a calling from God, naturally they become restless if they do not work day and night, especially in the cities where people work in shifts.

While training of ministers is very important, divine anointing is also very important in order for ministers to become effective workers. These are the ones who know how to sacrifice, and put their lives on the line; meaning they practice self-denial themselves. Together with aforementioned qualifications is the primary qualification to being very obedient to the Word of God and submissive to the Church Covenant.

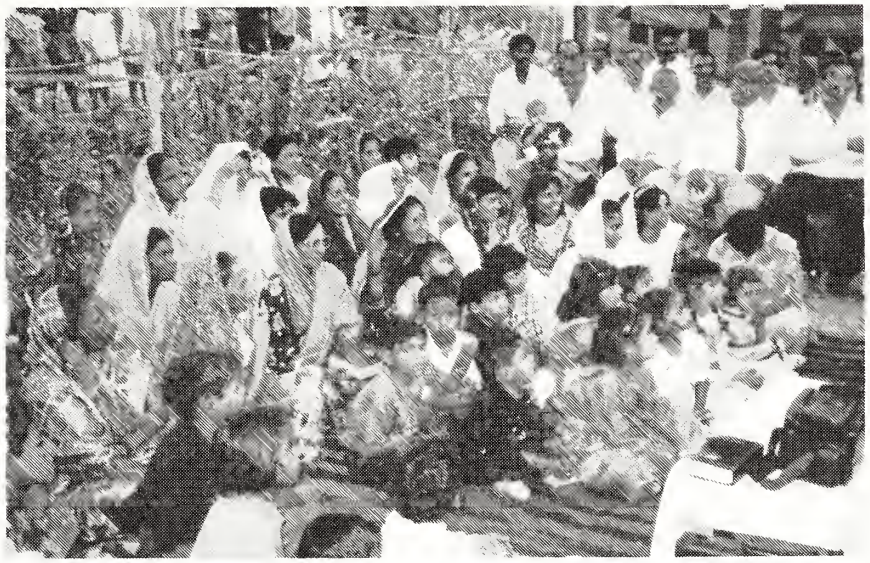
This T.E.E. class is the best we have had. The following line up of instructors was also the best: The Rev. Rogelio Dubirco, an experienced and effective church planter; the Rev. Nathaniel Lumain was a long time pastor of one of the biggest Presbyterian Congregations here in Cebu City. Professor Perla Cabajes is a scholar on Bible Survey and has taught in this discipline for over thirty years at the biggest Assembly of God Bible School here in Cebu. The Rev. Epifanio Pagalan is a pioneering church planter and minister of "The Word for World International Ministries" (Filipino-supported), which now has established work in thirteen different countries all over Asia, 10/40 Window, Europe and the West. Pastor Alfonso Gascon who taught on Cell Church was trained in Singapore and is an experienced Cell Church Equipper based on Dr. Ralph Neighbour's method as based on the Scriptures.

The T.E.E. studies is only a beginning of the study. The handouts will take them many years of study and application. Pray for us. We are a people with a vision committed to fulfilling the Great Commission on a daily basis. We cannot do this through our own strength, but by His Spirit.



"Build One For Them" — by Harold Jones

In the past three years the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions work has expanded into larger cities in the countries where we have ministry. This has created a whole new set of challenges in outreach ministry. It has also reminded us of the vast difference in construction cost. Land and buildings are much more expensive than in the rural areas. It is, however, essential that we provide adequate buildings for these new congregations or the fruit of our labor will be lost in these cities. The Board set aside a three month period for prayer before making a decision on this matter. After prayer the following plan, that we firmly believe is of the Lord, was approved.



"Build One For Them" is the name given to this significant step of faith. We will be challenging churches that have completed building programs of their own to now turn their energy and attention toward building a building for one of our congregations in another country.

The church will be provided with monthly progress reports and pictures of construction. A Short-Term Team can be developed from the congregation to go and spend a period of time helping with construction. At the completion of the project the pastor and one or more representatives from the church will be encouraged to attend the dedication service. A large framed, color picture will be presented to the church in a special service in recognition of your unselfish love and commitment to others.

This will be an exciting way for a church to become involved with a sister congregation on one of our fields in a very personal way. Please begin to pray about this and trust God for His answer and supply.

Special Prayer Request For Eastern Europe

Starvation is rampant.... It is estimated that 300,000 people will die during this harsh winter....

The situation in the country where Willem and Lydia are serving has deteriorated since December. The government has failed; many banks and business have closed. The currency has fallen to 1,900 leva to one US dollar. Many people receive only 2,000 leva per month. This is approximately one dollar. Starvation is rampant; this situation is especially hard on the young and elderly. It is estimated that 300,000 people will die during this harsh winter, from cold and starvation.

Many hospitals are completely out of medicine and medical supplies. At this time there is no gasoline or diesel for automobiles. The cooking gas is almost depleted. Fortunately they do have electricity and water.

Willem and our workers have set up a soup kitchen where approximately 1,000 people are being fed each week. Two orphanages are also being supplied with food and milk. God is able to take this tragic situation and use it for the advancement of the gospels; through this sincere expression of love. Thank you for making this ministry possible.

Willem, Lydia and our workers are well taken care of. They are paid in dollars, so they are able to keep pace with the drop in the value of the leva.

Both Willem and Lydia have recovered from their health problems. They were in Holland during January. Willem returned to Eastern Europe after a couple of weeks and Lydia returned the middle of March.

Please make this a priority prayer request!

Short Term Team Ministry

This ministry has become a significant part of the Foreign Missions program by providing ministry opportunities in a cross-cultural situation to youth and adults in our Free Will Baptist Churches. It is exciting to see lives changed through service to others. You can be a part of this ministry. Plan to join a team in the future and experience the real joy of servanthood.

The Short-Term Team opportunities are full for 1997, but now is the time to plan for 1998. I would encourage you to act immediately if you want to join a team next year. The dates for 1998 are as follow:

April 17–May 3	(Philippines)
June 13–23	(Mexico)
July 11–21	(Mexico)
August 1–11	(Mexico) in planning stage

Team members are involved in construction projects, youth camps, vacation Bible school, crafts, sports, puppetry, skits, tract distribution, witnessing, singing, preaching, teaching, medical clinic, and building relationships with those we serve. We also participate in their exciting Worship Services each night.



Medical Clinic



Tract Distribution



Teaching and VBS



Construction



Crafts and Teaching for women (building relationships)

For more information about opportunities and cost for 1998 teams, call 919–746–4963 or write:
Board of Foreign Missions
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING MATERIAL FOR PRINTING

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

According to the 1983 charter, the FWB Press Foundation exists for the following purpose:
"The purposes for which the corporation is organized are: to write, edit, print, publish and distribute any and all religious and educational literature for the Free Will Baptist denomination, including, but not limited to, Sunday school quarterlies, teachers' quarterlies, magazines, religious books, periodicals, newspapers, tracts, leaflets and posters of the denomination; church programs; schedules; minutes of the church, union, conference or convention meetings; hymnals; and other such religious and educational materials and miscellaneous printing as the Board of Directors shall deem desirable for use by the Free Will Baptist or other denomination." (*Restated Charter Articles of Incorporation of Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Incorporated*, Book 22, Page 535)

The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation operates as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*: "All institutions, auxiliaries and enterprises, born because of a recognized need by the denomination and authorized by the parent body are to adhere to the denominational principles and to be servants of the denomination" (111-112). As such we are bound to uphold the principles established in the *Free Will Baptist Church Covenant* (31-32).

All materials submitted for printing should reflect the general principles given above. Materials in conflict with these principles will be returned to the client who originally submitted the material. Normally, clients may choose to edit the materials to reflect these principles and resubmit them to the Press for reconsideration. In cases where the basic philosophy expressed in the material is in direct conflict with the principles under which the Press operates, the Press may return materials and not consider any future revisions. All materials returned to clients will indicate which situation applies.

These guidelines apply to all material printed by the FWB Press, including but not limited to the following: Free Will Baptist literature and publications, book printing (fiction and nonfiction), advertising, programs, newsletters, and business forms.

The Editor, in consultation with the Executive Director and Board Chair, will make decisions as to whether submitted material is acceptable under the guidelines. Exceptions to these guidelines can be made only with the agreement of the Editor, the Executive Director, and the Board Chair on a case by case basis.

(Note: These guidelines have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press, Foundation.)

To assist clients in determining whether material fits our principles, the Press has established the following specific guidelines:

1. All materials should reflect a Christian viewpoint. Materials which by their nature do not contain any religious reference (advertising, business forms, etc.) should not express any philosophy in conflict with a conservative Christian view. Materials should not condone any religious views which conflict directly with *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage).*

2. All materials should avoid questionable or suggestive language.

3. All materials should avoid "all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs" (*Articles of Faith* 31). In cases in which alcohol and/or drugs are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable.

4. All materials should avoid the approval of any questionable sexual relationship. In cases in which any sexual activity or relationship outside of marriage is mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable. Materials should avoid any overly suggestive or descriptive portrayals of sexual tension and/or activity even within the marriage relationship.

5. All materials should avoid the approval of New Age philosophy, the occult (including witchcraft, fortune-telling, tarot cards, etc.). In cases in which such ideas are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such philosophies and behaviors are unacceptable.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the Will of God in this solemn Covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and public worship and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel; nor fail to give according to our ability for the support of the church and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles and obligations supreme, esteem it our chief business to make Christ known to the world, and constantly pray and toil that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to cooperate in the promotion of denominational institutions and enterprises, the support of the work of the local church, and the evangelization of the world.

May the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

VBS Workshops

Vacation Bible School workshops were conducted by the Free Will Baptist Press on March 6 and March 8, 1997. Attendance totaled 75 for the two sessions, held at the Press. VBS materials were displayed from several publishers; however, the major focus was on materials from Standard Publishers, with the theme, "Promise Builders for Jesus."



Lexine Davis, Bookstore Coordinator, is shown attaired in the proper clothing depicting a carpenter in keeping with the theme of the Standard Publishers materials. Mrs. Davis served as the presenter in the workshops.Assisting her was Darren Davenport and Virginia Turnage.

All VBS Materials can be purchased from the Free Will Baptist Press bookstores.

Easter Display



This is the Easter Display that is located in the Free Will Baptist Press Bookstore, located in Ayden, NC. Shown is the Cross, the crown of thorns, the bread and wine of the Last Supper, along with several books relating to the Easter Season.

Smith's New Home Honors Oldest Members

On February 9, 1997, Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist Church held a very special Sunday morning service in which its members helped to celebrate the church's oldest member's birthday. Mrs. Alice Howard Mervin was ninety-four (94) years old on February 10, 1997. Along with her four children, Mary Ellen Moody, Polly Seymour, Franklin Mervin, Ray Mervin and the majority of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren, were in attendance for the morning service. Flowers were placed at the altar in loving honor of Mrs. Alice by her children. Her four-year old granddaughter, Alexis Golden, was one of a trio who sang especially for "Grandmother." The choir and two of its members, Mary Susan Humphrey and Saborah Smith, also dedicated special songs to her. Mrs. Verdie Hill, a cousin, reminisced the yesteryears of Mrs. Alice's life. The Rev. Walter Sutton, pastor, delivered the morning message. After the service a covered-dish lunch was enjoyed by all, with a beautifully decorated birthday cake for dessert.

Mrs. Alice was active in the church as early as 1939. Her father, Joel Howard, who died in 1911 when Mrs. Alice was eight years old, was one of the church's early members.

Mrs. Alice married Archie Mervin when she was quite young. They were farmers who worked hard to clear their farmland and to tend the soil when most everything was done by hand and by the "sweat of the brow." Mrs. Alice was not always able to be an active church member, but she exemplified her faith in daily living. She and Mr. Archie were blessed with four children (named above) ten grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren, fifteen great, great grandchildren, and three great, great, great grandchildren. About sixty family members were in attendance for the service. This number included nieces, nephews, and cousins, as well as the immediate family members.

Mrs. Alice has lived in Guardian Care, Kinston, NC, for the past few years. Her family is very attentive to her needs and they visit her often. Mrs. Alice always welcomes friends and acquaintances with a big smile and is very appreciative of visits.

Smith's New Home members say:

"Congratulations, Mrs. Alice. We all enjoyed your 94th Birthday! May God bless you with good health and sweet peace until He comes to take you home. We at Smith's New Home Church love and appreciate you."



Picture is Mrs. Alice with her four children: L – R, Ray Mervin, Polly Seymour, Frankling Mervin, Mary Ellen Moody

A "String" of Pins



Pictured is Mr. William Calvin Carter who, up until his death on January 16, 1997, was a member of Piney Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Albertson, NC. Mr. Carter had received a total of fifty (50) Sunday school pins. Before coming to Piney Grove, he attended Daly's Chapel Church for a number of years, where he began receiving the Sunday school pins; however, during that time Daly's Chapel stopped awarding pins for a number of years, at which time he lost a few years.

Mr. Carter is survived by his wife, Inez Herring Carter; a daughter and son and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ms. Judy Jones, church clerk states: "He was loved and will be greatly missed by his church family.

A Tribute to Alton Gerome Jones

by the Rev. Dewey C. Boling

Alton Gerome Joyner was born September 27, 1935 to Luther and Clara Joyner. Alton was married to Ruth Polland on September 8, 1956. On July 15, 1960 a daughter Phyllis was born, who married Wesley Jeffries. They have a daughter named Tiffany Nichole, who is seventeen years old.

In February 1993, I met the Joyner family and in March of 1993, I became their pastor while serving Barnes Hill Free Will Baptist Church. Soon after I become their pastor, while enjoying lunch in their home, I learned Alton and Ruth were saved February 11, 1976, and became members of Barnes Hill Church. It didn't take long to realize that this was a very fine dedicated family, with Alton as deacon and a member of the choir, usher, grounds, and maintenance committee, and Ruth a member of the choir and sang Alton in the choir and Ladies Trio. Their daughter Phyllis is a Sunday school teacher. She and her husband Wesley are very dedicated to Barnes Hill Church, along with their daughter Tiffany. You could always count on Brother Alton to be in every service, along with his family.

As a minister for 45 years, I soon learned that Brother Alton was an outstanding man of God. He always had a smile on his face and enjoyed witnessing to his fellow workers on his job and in the community, telling them how wonderful it was to be a Christian.

Alton was always willing to go with me to the hospital to talk to some one about Jesus. As a pastor you meet a lot of good dedicated men, and Brother Alton was among the best and enjoyed working for the Lord.

Brother Alton was struck with a rare disease and on October 23, 1996, the Lord called him home to be with Him. His son-in-law, Wesley, was asked to fill out Alton's unexpired term on the Deacon Board. Brother Alton has been a great loss to Barnes Hill Church, but his family and our church have a great consolation knowing that he is enjoying Heaven and that soon we all can enjoy being with him again in perfect health.

Cape Fear District Talent Winners

by Jeffery Lucas

The last youth rally was held at Lee's Chapel Church on February 1, 1997, for the Cape Fear District. We had talent competition for AFC's and for YFA's.

First place winners were as follows—

AFC's:	Individual	Holland White
	Group	Smyrna Church
YFA's:	Individual	Aaron Strickland
	Group	Wooten's Chapel Church

There where 301 present, with 131 youth.

The next youth rally will be held at Saint Mary's Grove Church on March first. There will be no youth rally in April due to Spring Stretch Walkathon at Mount Olive College.

Overman Begins Work in Earnest



Pictured is the Rev. C. H. Overman, newly elected editor, along with Mrs. Mary Ann Davenport, Editorial Assistant, looking over some of the work to be done. Mr. Overman began his work on February 3, 1997.

FYI

for your information

Cape Fear Auxiliary Convention

Oak Grove OFWB Church, Newton Grove, NC
April 9, 1997

Theme: "Angels — God's Messengers"

Scripture: "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10–11).

9:00	Registration
9:30	Hymn ..... "Blessed Assurance"
	Devotions ..... Ruth Warrick
	Welcome ..... Host Church
	Response ..... Rhonda Godwin
	Greetings ..... President
	Hymn ..... "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone"
	Offering

Business Session

	Reports of Enterprises ..... Rev. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator
	Memorial Service ..... Helen Floyd
	Special Music ..... Host Church
	Convention Message ..... Rev. Scott Casey
	Closing Remarks
	Installation of Officers ..... Liz Dawson
12:30	Hymn ..... "Wonderful Story of Love"
	Benediction and Blessing
	Lunch

Ayden Bible and Book Store and The Free Will Baptist Press would like to thank all those who attended the Vacation Bible School Workshops.

REVIVAL

Winterville
Free Will Baptist Church

915 E. Cooper Street
Winterville, NC

April 20–24, 1997
Sunday 11 AM and 7 PM
Monday – Thursday night
7:30 PM

David Langley, Pastor
Evangelist: Rev. Bobby Jackson

Special singing each service.
Nursery will be provided.
Everyone is invited.

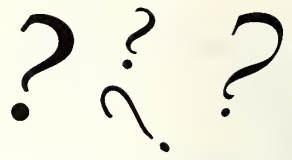
NOTICE!

To SUBSCRIBERS of
"THE FREE WILL BAPTIST"

You are urged to send us news items pertaining to events taking place in your church. Also, we welcome materials that would be suitable for feature articles, including sermons and other suitable literary work.

Send all items to:
The Editor
"The Free Will Baptist"
PO Box 158
Ayden, NC 28513

FYI



Directions and Lodging

for those attending State Woman's Auxiliary Convention, May 8, 1997 at Oak Grove FWB Church, Bladenboro, NC.

I-95 from Fayetteville
At Lumberton turn at Exit 22.
Turn left over the bridge, go 5 stop lights, turn left at B.P. Station on 211 south.
Go 3 stop lights, turn left to 211 bypass south.
11 miles to Bladenboro.
Turn right on 211 Business, go into Bladenboro pass B.P. Station on left.
Church 1 block on right.

Exit 22 Motels & Eating Places at Lumberton
Holliday Inn, Hampton Inn, Ramonda Inn, Best Western, and Budget Inn.
Waffle Shop, Hardees, Ryans, Huddle House, and Denny's.

Hwy. 701, White Lake and Elizabethtown
Take 701 South through Elizabethtown.
Exit on 242 South to Bladenboro (11 miles).
In Bladenboro at the stop light turn right (there will be a Jones Store and The Medicine Shop on the corners.)
Church on the left about 3 blocks.

Motel at White Lake
Goldston's Motel (910–862–4064)
1608 White Lake Dr.
White Lake

Motel at Elizabethtown
Days Inn (864–7444)
(1–800–329–7466 for reservations)
609 E. Broad Street

Note: Food will be catered.
$5.00 per person.

Pastor Available

The Rev. James Warren of Kinston, NC
is available for Supply Pastor.
If any church is in need of a Supply Pastor, they may contact the Rev. Warren at 919–527–1648.
He is a member of the Eastern Conference and is in good standing with the conference.

REGISTRATION FORM
Cragmont Woman's Conferences

June 2–7
Speaker, Clyde Cox

July 28–August 2
Speaker, Ruth Cotton West

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Which Conference Attending: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here. _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

_____

_____

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here. _____

Mail this registration form along with a $20.00 deposit to:
Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
A balance of $120.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned to The Knoxville Riverboat dinner cruise ($65.00), and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville ($5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

Remember: The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples is available on a first registered, first served basis.

Events from Sunday School Charms

by Paul Grubbs

The Sunday School Institute was great again this year. We had over 500 adults and youth to attend. Dr. Dan Reichard gave us much to think about and work on in order to grow an evangelistic Sunday school. Thanks to all who attended.

Your Sunday School Board is at this time working on revising the Sunday School Handbook. If you have any ideas that might improve our Sunday School Handbook please send them to: PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513–0039.

The Sunday School Board helped me attend the Children's Pastor's Conference (CPC) in Nashville, Tennessee. The CPC was held from January 7–12, 1997. One rememberable event of this CPC was the David C. Cook/Thank You Music, Inc., Concert. Miss Lynn and Nan Gurley were two of the featured singers and directors. They are music writers for the David C. Cook children's Sunday school curriculum. If you are using the David C. Cook literature, you have received compact discs in your teaching aid material. These are excellent songs to help teach your lesson to the children. In addition, your children's choir can learn the songs and minister to the adults through the music.

Here at St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabeth City, our youth choir is learning the song, "Captain of Salvation," by Nan Gurley as well as some of the other songs. One great thing about this literature is that it comes with permission to reproduce the "Student Song Sheet" and "Overhead Transparency Masters."

David C. Cook Sunday school literature and "Thank You Music" material can be purchased through the Free Will Baptist Press and its Bible and Bookstores.

While I was returning from the CPC, Mary Dudley, Director to the Sunday School Board, was at St. Paul in Elizabeth City teaching Sunday school and presenting certificates to some of our teachers who completed the Teacher's Training Certification Program of the Sunday School Board.

Sunday School Institute



Pictured Dr. Dan Reichard

Approximately 500 persons attended the Sunday School Institute held on March 1, 1997, at Mount Olive College. More than 100 youth were in attendance with activities conducted in College Hall, while the adults participated in the workshop, "How to Grow an Evangelistic Sunday School," conducted by Dr. Dan Reichard of "Church Growth Institute," held in the Murphy Center.

The Institute was sponsored by the Convention's Sunday School Board, and for the past few years has seen a sizable increase in attendance. Mrs. Mary Dudley is the Director of the Sunday School Board ministry.

Bulletin Board Idea:

"We are the CHURCH." Draw an outline picture of your church on a large piece of construction paper. Then place a small photo or a small drawing of your students inside the church outline. On the outside of the church outline place the name and/or logos of each of our Original Free Will Baptist Ministries and put a string from the church outline to each ministry. Write the words "We are the CHURCH" across the bottom of the bulletin board. This will help your Sunday school class know that they and our denomination are the church.



I'M GLAD I WENT!

by the Rev. Walt Tyndall
Pastor of Spring Branch Church

I had the privilege of attending the leadership seminar by John Maxwell in Winston-Salem on January 9 and 10. I debated whether or not to go because many times seminars are dull and boring. I am so glad I decided to go to this one because it literally changed my life.

Not only was the teaching great, the presence of God was tremendous. The knowledge and ideas I came away with will be invaluable in leading a church. The principles are so dynamic. I believe all of our ministers and leaders should attend this seminar.

Just a month after having implemented many of these teachings at Spring Branch Church, where I pastor, we have already seen some wonderful changes. If our churches are going to grow, it will be because the pastors take it upon themselves to become better leaders, and Dr. Maxwell's leadership principles are essential to that growth. Not only do these principles work, but they are Scriptural as well. While pastors need to improve all their skills continually, I think leadership should top the list. How can we expect people to follow if we do not lead?

The seminar was fantastic; the fellowship with the other ministers who went was a joy. We had time to get together and discuss the seminar and our denomination as well. It was great to hear many of the leaders of our denomination give the vision they have for our future. We had the opportunity to share our hearts and concerns and spend wonderful time in prayer.

I will always treasure the fellowship I enjoyed with the men on this trip. We laughed, we cried, we worshiped, and we learned. It was a wonderful experience, one I will always cherish.

LEADERSHIP ENDOWMENT DINNER PLANNED

The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow will be honored on May 30, 1997, at the Convention's first Leadership Endowment Dinner. Mr. Barrow has been selected because of the significant impact he has made on the Convention and the leadership he has provided. During his years of ministry he has served the Convention, various ministry boards, denominational institutions, and Original Free Will Baptist churches.

Mr. Barrow was married to Alice Herget; they have 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. Mr. Barrow makes his home in Arba, which is located outside of Snow Hill, NC.

The Dinner will be held at First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, NC. Gifts may be given to the Endowment in his honor or in memory of Mrs. Alice Barrow. For more information, contact the Rev. W. Scott Sowers, executive administrator, by phoning (919) 746-4963; or by writing to him at the following address: Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

ABOUT ENDOWMENTS

What Is an Endowment?

According to *Webster's Dictionary*, "to endow" is to give money or property so as to provide an income for the support of an institution or organization. It is first and foremost a gift, an expression of financial support. The gift may be in the form of money or property. (Property includes land, buildings, stocks, bonds, insurance policies, and others items of value.) But, it is more than a gift; it is a gift that keeps on giving. In order to provide an income, the original gift is invested. Only the return on the investment is used; therefore, the gift remains to provide a perpetual income.

An endowment may be given in someone's name, in honor of a person or persons, or as a memorial for a loved one or friend. The continual income from endowments insures the continued memory of the ones honored by the original gift.

Giving to an endowment signifies support for the present program and faith that the program will continue in the future. It represents an investment in the tomorrows of the institutions or organization. By making a contributions to an endowment, the donor expresses a desire to see the work continue and the willingness to be a partner in the accomplishments.

Endowment Opportunities

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists provides two endowment options. The first was developed by C. H. Overman in an effort to recognize those who have led our Convention over the years. The *Leadership Endowment* has been designated to honor those who have invested their lives in the work of the Convention. The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow will be the first individual to be recognized in this manner.

The second opportunity is the *Original Free Will Baptist Endowment.* This is an open endowment that may be used by anyone to provide a perpetual gift for the work of the Convention. Contributions may be made in the name of the donor or designated as memorials or honorariums. More information or assistance in making contributions is available through the Executive Administrator.

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

The Golden Years

The Bottom Line Of Life

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter...," (Ecclesiastes 12:13 a).

The term "bottom line" is a sign of our time. Although many of us use these words almost daily, this expression has become a part of our common vocabulary only in this generation.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged published in the 1960s does not even list the term "bottom line," but the abridged *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* published in the 1990s gives these words full treatment.

The Bottom Line In Business

"Bottom line" is a term which originated in the business world where it is concerned exclusively with profit and loss. In the financial report of a firm, an account summarizes the income and expenditures for the year, and the "bottom line" discloses whether the firm made a profit or had a loss.

If you could be in the room with a board of directors of a bank or business firm when the annual report is distributed, you would observe that most directors turn directly to the financial statement and look immediately for the bottom line.

It is the bottom line which tells the story in the business world, but the bottom line is also a concept that tells the story of our lives. Let's look at some of the bottom lines by which we measure our lives.

The Bottom Line In Our Work

Early in my forty-year tenure as president of Mount Olive College, I was fortunate to encounter the writings of Peter F. Drucker, who is recognized as the father of modern management. From him I learned to ask the bottom line questions in college administration: Why was I at the College? What was my mission? What was I trying to achieve?

What was my work? Was it developing policies and programs? Was it attending countless meetings on campus, throughout North Carolina and across the United States? Was it delivering addresses to various groups and visiting churches? Was it developing a campus and constructing buildings? Was it traveling 50,000 miles each year? Was it raising money? All these things descended upon me with unrelenting urgency, and I was driven to the limits of physical endurance. These things had to be done, but they were not my work.

My mission was education. My work was to help provide the opportunity of an education for those who truly wanted to become what God had created and called them to be. My work was to facilitate learning and human development. My work was to recruit teachers and counselors who could inspire students to find meaning and purpose in their lives and to help students equip themselves for effective service to God and humankind.

Whatever our work, the bottom line is not so much how busy we are but whether we fulfill our mission.

The Bottom Line In Stewardship

The ability to make money through hard work and good management is a worthy ambition. There is no inherent virtue in being financially poor. Poverty is not a spiritual value. The bottom line of stewardship, however, is not how much money we have but how we use it. The value of money is what we do with it.

In the business world, making money is the criterion for success, but in the Kingdom of God the bottom line is whether we think the money is ours (a loss) or whether we regard it as a trust from God (a profit).

The Bottom Line In Religion

Attending Sunday school and church, holding office, serving on committees, being actively engaged in youth work, singing in the choir and rendering other good services is noble and commendable, but the essential point is whether these activities enrich our own spiritual lives and whether they contribute to the spiritual development of others.

God is the Auditor of our spiritual lives, and the bottom line is our relationship with Him.

The Bottom Line In Life

In his book, *The Seasons of Life* (John Knox Press, 1963), the late Dr. Paul Tournier reminds us that life is "the crucial game which we can only play once. This game must of necessity end in victory or defeat."

When everything else is consummated, and God does the final audit of our lives, what do we want to be the bottom line?

1997 (Vol. 2, No. 6) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

H. B. London, Jr. and Neil B. Wiseman. *Your Pastor Is An Endangered Species.* Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1996.

Introduction

Are our ministers in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination becoming an endangered species? What is an endangered species anyway? H. B. London, Jr. Vice President of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Neil B. Wiseman, Professor of Pastoral Development at Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, both view modern pastors as "a species" that "may become extinct" because the numbers "are so low or weakened" that unless real changes occur, "there will soon be no more of that species left in the world" (11).

Modern Problems For Pastors

Why do our young people hesitate to enter the ministry in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination? What are some of the *real* problems a pastor faces?

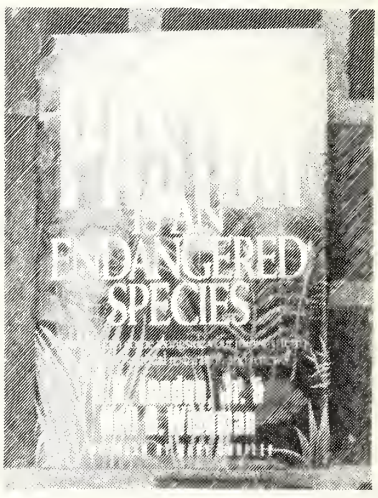
If a church is small, often times a pastor's salary is small. A second job becomes the only way to survive the costs of living. Pastors are expected in some ways to accept a lower standard of living. Constant financial problems may make leadership less effective. Pastors are expected to be on call 24 hours a day. Members may feel dissatisfied with the pastor's ideas and methods; consequently, members may migrate to another church. Pastors seem to "reside in a world of decreasing approval" (32) as well as in a world where nothing is "completely finished" (32). Pastors must face being under fire by church members as expectations and stress soar.

Face The 10 Myths

Lay persons in the church sometimes subscribe to 10 myths, which makes the pastor's job difficult. For example: (1) Problems get smaller with silence. (2) My opinion is truth. (3) Someone must be blamed. (4) Conflict must be avoided at any cost. (5) Nitpickers and perfectionists should not be offended. (6) What has been must always be. (7) My excuses are valid. (8) My experience works in every situation. (9) Our pastor should do better. (10) Confusing carelessness and faithfulness as the reasons for leaving the church.

Strategies To Help The Pastor

(1) Build a lay ministry to help the pastor "facilitate renewal and restoration" (34). (2) Unite to make congregational expectations reasonable regarding time, salary, educational expenses, meditations, human strengths and limitations (23–26). (3) Express appreciation to the pastor (136). (4) Build confidence and communication in the church (172). (5) Allow the pastor the right to lead and to fail (200). (6) Encourage the pastor to dream, to study, to meditate, to have special friends, to seek "the right of passage when needed" (200). (7) Emphasize the uniqueness of the church and the reality of "who really owns the church" (200). (8) Avoid negativism, refuse to participate in "political manipulations," seek ways of renewal (155). (9) Create memories where love enriches all (136). (10) View "Christian service as a privilege and honor" (111).



Conclusion

Our authors create a Bill of Rights for pastors — an august conclusion for coming to the aid of pastors as an endangered species. The Bill of Rights include the right to dream, the right to privacy, the right to continual professional development, the right of friendship, the right for protection from unrealistic scrutiny, the right to fail, the right to passage, the right to organizational support, and the right to speak out against sin and injustice.

What was once *endangered* may become *renewed* and *replenished,* giving to our world fresh beauty and expanded truth.

***Your Pastor Is An Endangered Species* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson**

Ministerial Relocation

by Dr. Allan R. Sharp

In congregational type churches the process of ministerial relocation is a much more complicated matter than in denominations which appoint their ministers. Having for years been involved in recommending undergraduates to churches, and more recently as the interim Minister for Relocation on a regional level, I have discovered several problems connected with getting ministers and churches together. The problems I have encountered are as follows:

First, there is the matter of financial remuneration. There is a discrepancy between what ministers want, or feel they need, and what many churches are willing to pay. What makes up the package deal (salary, parsonage, utilities, mileage, etc.) needs to be clarified. Both the minister and the church need to be realistic.

...God ultimately calls us to the ministry, but local churches can *help* or *hinder* the process.

Second, it is a difficult task to match ministers and churches. Ministers and churches often appear quite different on paper and in reality. This often results in trying to match a round peg with a square hole. They simply do not fit!

Third, I have discovered some churches will consider twenty or thirty names without making a choice. It gets to be a game to see how many different candidates they can reject. This is time consuming, exasperating, and eventually demoralizing to those involved with the church going for months without a regular minister. Churches should not consider persons too far away geographically because they cannot afford to move the person. Churches should not consider individuals with talents and interests foreign to the needs and desires of the congregation.

Fourth, I find that most churches have used up far more ministers than they have ever produced. Studies show that many of the current ministers will be retiring shortly after the year 2000. That is not far away, and the available supply is dwindling.

What are the possible solutions? The answers are not always easy, but let me suggest a few.

First, more churches are going to have to encourage capable young people to consider the ministry for a vocation. I realize that God ultimately calls us to the ministry, but local churches can *help* or *hinder* the process.

Second, more churches are going to have to accept women ministers because women are now about to exceed the number of men preparing for the ministry in colleges and seminaries.

Third, some small churches are going to have to consider dual-vocational ministers, i.e., ministers who both pastor a congregation, and at the same time hold down another job. Paul's tent-making ministry may once again become the norm for many churches in the next century.

Fourth, congregations are going to have to stop their negative and adversarial attitudes toward the ministry. No one wants to serve where the minister is considered a hired hand rather than the spiritual leader of a congregation. Encouraging the ministry with prayer, helpfulness, and adequate pay will go a long way toward aiding the relocation process of ministers.

Biographical Information

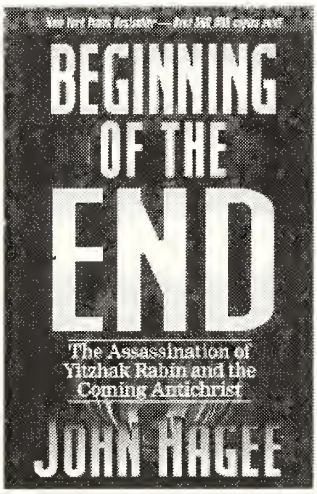
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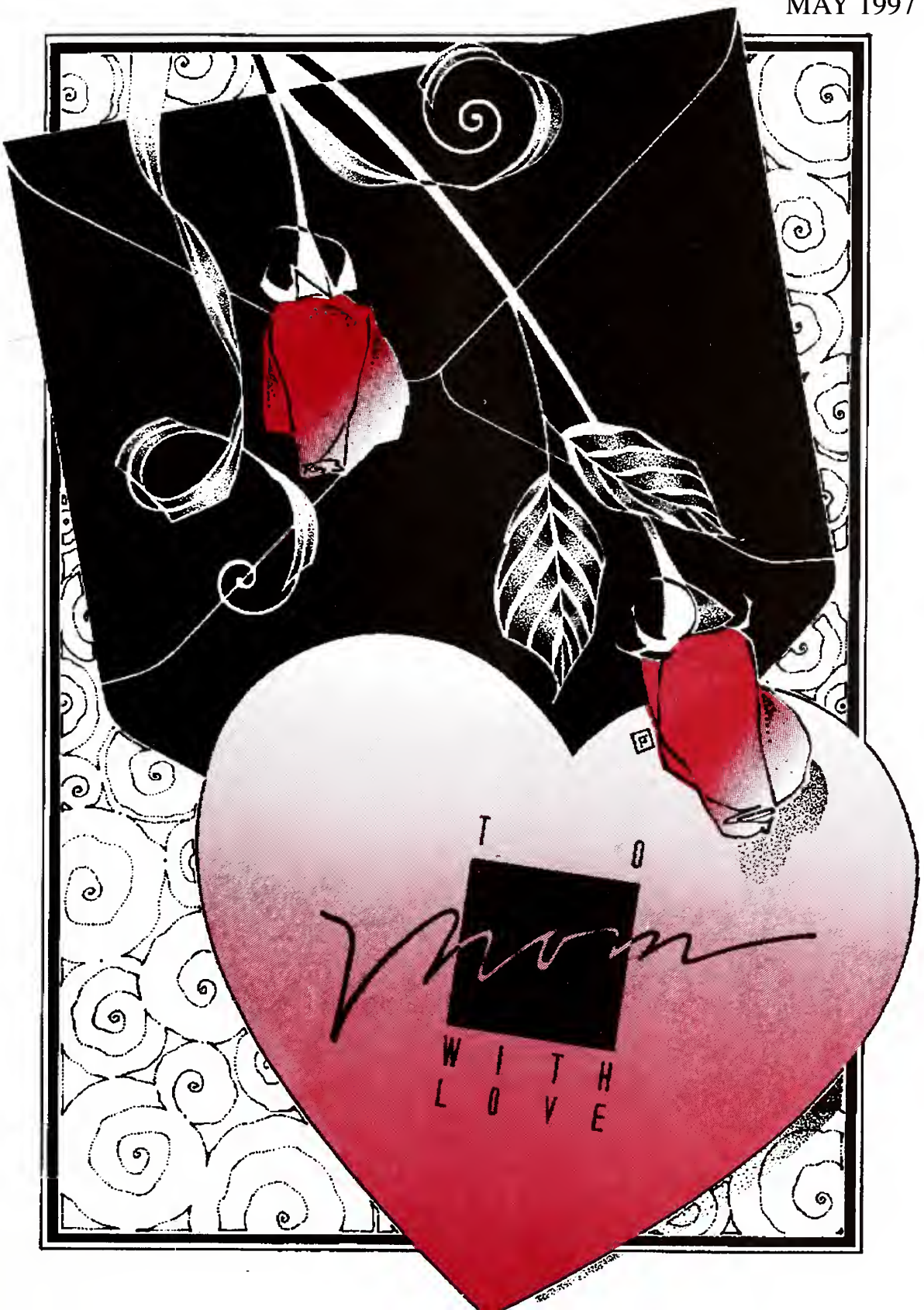
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The Free Will Baptist

MAY 1997



Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

"'Tis Loyalty, Loyalty..."

Each church has its favorite hymns, those that are sung over and over. My home church (Union Grove, Wayne County, NC) had its select number, which I fondly remember. Among the favorites was "Loyalty to Christ," written by Flora H. Cassel. In my mind I can still hear its refrains as both young and old lifted their voices:

"From over hill and plain
"There comes the signal strain
" 'Tis loyalty, loyalty, loyalty to Christ..."

The words of this old hymn emphasize where our true loyalty rests — in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As His followers, we owe Him our love and devotion, with no exceptions. It is His will that is primary; all else is secondary. Day after day we seek His will and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

> We owe Him our love and devotion, with no exceptions. It is His will that is primary; all else is secondary.

In life there are other loyalties to which we are committed. Loyalty to our denomination, its doctrines, its ministries and programs, is an essential requirement. It is commonly agreed that our major asset is our sound, Biblical doctrine. If we have doubts about what we believe and practice, then we are in trouble. When we look at our various ministries and programs, on the other hand, our perspective changes somewhat. Each one has become an important part of the outreach of our denomination, from the Convention and Conference level, down to the local church with its various auxiliaries and groups. Ministries (formerly known as Institutions and Enterprises) were born out of the conviction that there were needs in certain areas that could not be met by the local church alone, or even by the Conferences. The history of each ministry is unique, and with the passing of time has evolved into an important and distinctive role in seeking to fulfill the calling to serve our Master.

On the Convention level we have repeatedly voted support and loyalty to our ministries and programs. Yet, at one time or another, each has faced its hardships and struggles, simply because our loyalty has waned, or failed. We have no problem regarding loyalty to our doctrines because they are Biblically based. Why, then, do problems of loyalty exist regarding support of some of our ministries and other programs which we have properly initiated and placed our stamp of approval upon?

Perhaps the answer is more complex than we realize, with varying opinions and possible disagreements. After forty-four years as an ordained Original Free Will Baptist minister, and having been involved at various levels of denominational work, I have concluded that the personality factor sometimes plays a role in the matter of loyalty. On the positive side, when personality conflicts are nil, loyalty abounds or at least remains constant. On the negative side, when there are personality conflicts of any degree or proportions, loyalty wanes.

Weighing the importance of a ministry or program also determines the degree of loyalty. The fact is that we do support certain programs more than others because we feel one is more important than the other.

Early in my ministry I determined that it was (and is) my duty to promote and support the denomination in all its facets. I did not need to debate the matter in my own mind. It was not a time-dated, earth-shattering decision; rather, it was merely a part of me, based upon my background and training. This does not mean that I have always agreed with everyone and everything. The truth is that we must rise above our sometimes petty opinions and feelings to focus on a higher plane.

I am a part of my denomination; my denomination is a part of me. This has been true during my entire life, especially during these years in the ministry. I have read about the decline in denominationalism, that this is the way it is; but does this mean that I must bow to the trend, bury my head in the sand and conclude that I am a dying breed? As a Christian and as a Free Will Baptist, I will remain loyal to my Lord and to my beloved denomination, for both have done far more for me that I have done for them. With a grateful heart, I will continue to labor for Him and for my denomination. In spite of our flaws, God honors the faithful; and I'm of the firm opinion that every Free Will Baptist should support every phase of our work. After all, that's what we have pledged ourselves to do.

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NEXT MONTH

June is Cragmont Assembly Month

May is Children's Home Month

Carteret County Union and Sunday School Convention of Original Free Will Baptist

by Dr. Pepper Worthington

The Garden of Gethsemane was a place of disillusionment and betrayal, but for Jesus it was a place of prayer.

On March 22, 1997, the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church hosted the Carteret County Union Meeting. Greeting people as they came into the church was the music of Jack Goodwin at the piano.

The Rev. Michael Warning welcomed more than 60 people to the meeting. He stressed in his devotion the concept of prayer. "Pray that ye enter not into temptation," he said. "The Garden of Gethsemane was a place of disillusionment and betrayal, but for Jesus it was a place of prayer. At the very culmination of Jesus's ministry with the disciples, he stressed prayer," Rev. Warning said. "May we also remember that when we are in that garden of indecision, betrayal, and denial, that we remember to pray."

The Rev. Richard Roberts served as moderator for the Union Meeting while the Rev. Jesse Fulcher read the minutes.

Exhibit of Oil Paintings by Gladys Taylor Noyes

Many guests at the Union Meeting enjoyed the special exhibit of oil paintings by Gladys Taylor Noyes. The Rev. Harold Jones said, "She is talented indeed."

Gladys Taylor Noyes was born October 7, 1908, at Sea Level, NC, then called Wit. Explorers who came to the end of Carteret County coastline were at their wit's end. They did not know the name of the land, so they called it Wit.

Gladys Noyes grew up in Sea Level, graduated from high school in 1927 and went to Meredith College in Raleigh in 1929. She studied art under Ida Poteat.

Gladys Noyes married and lived in many places with her husband, who worked for a dredging company. Mr. Noyes was the superintendent of Atkinson and carried Gladys to Morehead City, Charleston, SC; Savannah, GA; and Fernadina, FL.

Gladys Noyes has three children: Sabra Jewel Noyes (1935), who lived in Panama City, FL; Frank Cowen Noyes, Jr. (1936), who lives in Las Vegas, NV; Alfred Noyes (1949), who lives in Sea Level with his wife, Kaye Willis Noyes.

Gladys Noyes excels in oil paintings. She specializes in still life, ocean scenes, trees, and boats. She erases paintings she is not satisfied with. "I haven't retired yet," said Mrs. Noyes. "I'm still a gettin' it." she declared.



The Rev. Harold Jones (left) praised the oil paintings of Gladys Taylor Noyes at the Carteret County Union and Sunday School Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The Rev. Jones presented slides of the mission work of OFWB.

The Reverend Harold Jones and Foreign Missions

The Rev. Harold Jones presented slides of the mission work of Original Free Will Baptists. Among the locations emphasized were the Philippines, Mexico, Bulgaria, India, and Nepal.

The Rev. Jones started with slides of the State of Coahuila, Mexico. He spoke of short-term teams of missionaries sent as far down as Saltillo. Thirty constituted the team last June, 1996. The parsonage at the Prince of Peace Free Will Baptist Church was built and a parsonage is needed now for the Lily of the Valley Free Will Baptist Church.

Slides of the Philippines revealed last frontier sites for mission work. Both Sandra and Harold were the first missionaries in Palawan in 1969. Work has greatly expanded in the Philippines during 1996.

Slides of India and Nepal helped all to visualize mission sites. The Free Will Baptist effort began in Dr. Lall's home on November 6, 1975. Today there are 109 churches and 30

elementary schools. The church at Tondalpur led to the poem written by Dr. Pepper.

The Man From Tondalpur

Massive eucalyptus trees stretched skyward
as our bus bumped down muddy roads,
sugar cane high around us
while packs of birds picked ticks off themselves.

Our bus swayed, swerved, sped towards
Tondalpur,
land of refugees from war-worn Punjab,
land of farmers willing to work
and live in mud homes
with mud floors
for a life of peace.

Suddenly our bus sank,
the front left wheel deep in mud
as if to remind us
the way to wisdom comes against
one's will.

Boldly a tall, rough-hewn man
came running from the distance,
his simple shovel swinging in the air
like life,
his legs intent on reaching us,
helping us,
freeing the stuck wheel.
Without a word he sank into the mud,
slung dirt everywhere
as if the wheel were a soul
and time was at hand.
The old man sank in the mud himself,
forgetting the wind,
the cold,
the dirt,
while he dug the wheel to freedom
so that we could ride to paradise
while he walked.
For a moment I felt my heart stop.
I thought of Jesus washing the feet
of others.
I knew this man from Tondalpur
would get to paradise first
and wait for us there too
in case our wheels got stuck
again
in mud
or gravel
or rain.
His shovel would whip in and out
the hindered wheel
and free us.
He knew what freedom was
and so taught us.

Pepper Worthington

Bulgarian slides revealed the mission work in Bulgaria. "Much work among the gypsy children has been effective," said the Rev. Jones. "Bulgaria is a nation in shambles," he said.

Fellowship

The women of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church prepared a delicious down east feast for the Union Meeting. All left feeling full and joyous. "An evening of fellowship with Free Will Baptist friends is precious," concluded the Rev. Michael Warning.



Ruby Salter (left) and Maxine Harvey (right) are strong OFWB supporters of the Carteret Union Meeting at Sea Level.



Free Will Baptists line up to eat the good food at the Carteret County Union Meeting.

Be Thou An Example

— by Carol Prescott

"...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

A good example should inspire us to examine our lives to see where improvement is needed and challenge us to make the necessary changes.

What should a good example do? A good example should inspire us to examine our lives to see where improvement is needed and challenge us to make the necessary changes.

We can all look at ourselves and at our lives and see where we need improvement in all the areas mentioned in our Scripture. Paul tells us to be an example "of the believers." This is an awesome statement. Think about it ... of all the believers in Christ, we should each be an example.

What is an example? An example is a model by which we make a comparison. For example, when I think of fruit, I think of a sweet juicy orange. When I think "candy," chocolate comes to mind! A precious gem? Diamonds, of course! When I think of servanthood, I think of the great humanitarian, Mother Teresa. When I think of patience, I think of my mother.

Paul is telling Timothy and us to stand out — be a model — be an example of the believers in what way? In word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

For a better understanding, I used a concordance to get the definitions of the words translated from the original Greek in which the New Testament was written.

First, Paul says to be an example in *word.* The definition is something said (including the thought), reasoning, or motive. Now we all know we should be good examples in what we say. Foul language seems to be the going thing in movies and on television, but we know as Christians that kind of talk has no place in our lives, or anyone's, for that matter. It is totally unnecessary. But this word goes much farther than that. What we say and how we say it can have an impact on other people without our realizing it. Do we make a positive or a negative impression? If we speak and act in a positive way, we will make a positive impression. If we speak and act in a negative way, we will make a negative impression. Which would you rather be around?

Do we speak hastily, without thinking, in a critical manner, rudely? Do we speak the truth or do we tend to exaggerate? Or do we speak gently, with patience, with understanding, truthfully? Sometimes it takes more boldness to speak with control than it does to "fly off the handle."

Proverbs 6:16–19 lists six things the Lord hates and adds that seven are an abomination: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet swift in running to mischief, a false witness, and he that sows discord among the brethren. Of these seven things, four have to do with speech and thought.

Now more than ever, we as Christians must stand up for Christ with boldness in defending our values and principles. But this can be done in love. It takes prayer and practice. The story is told of a young woman going to an abortion clinic. As she started to get out of her car, a right-to-life worker approached her and speaking with compassion said, "God loves you and wants what is best for you and your baby." Handing her a card, she continued, "If I can help, please know you can call me." Later, the young woman called the worker to tell her she did not have the abortion. She explained that the worker didn't condemn her for what she had done or was about to do, but spoke with compassion and love. It made a difference.

"Words" also mean reasoning and motive. In Colossians 3:16–17, Paul used the same word to tell us whatever we do, do in the name of the Lord. Our words should always bring glory to God, no matter the situation or the place. We should speak to others in love and with patience and understanding. Then we will glorify God and be an example in word.

Second, Paul says to be an example in conversation, which meant just that — conversation (talking to one anther). But it also means behavior. So, what do we talk about? Are we always tearing someone down or building them up? Do we talk about the negative in a person or do we look for the positive? (There's that negative and positive aspect again.) Do we talk about someone or do we speak up for him? Do we look for the

If He abides in our hearts, then He will give us the strength and boldness to be examples in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

good or only the bad? One of the best solutions to gossip I ever heard was this: If someone says to you, "Did you hear that so-and-so did this-and-such to you-know-who?" Reply, "No, I haven't heard that. Come and we'll go ask her if it is true." End of conversation!

How about our behavior and actions? In Titus 2:3 Paul talks about behaviour "...as becometh holiness,..." We should be as our name implies, Christian — Christ like. When our conversation and behavior brings glory to God, then we will be examples in conversation.

Then Paul says to be an example in charity which means agape (love), affection, and benevolence. God loves us with an everlasting love, and we are commanded to love one another. As human beings, we cannot comprehend God's great love — His perfect love. But to have a benevolent love for all people is what we are to do if we are to be the kind of examples God wants us to be. This includes those of a different race, those of a different ethnic or economic background, those of a different religion or denomination or of no religion at all, those in prison or those walking the streets who should be in prison. We could go on and on. Jesus said to "...love thy neighbor as thyself..." (Mark 12:31). Demonstrating love brings glory to God and makes us examples in charity.

Paul continued by saying we are to be an example in spirit, which comes from a word meaning vital principles; mental disposition. We are not to compromise with the world. The world has nothing to offer in exchange for high moral principles and a good mental disposition. This attitude will be reflected in the way we live and we should always live so that the world can see Christ in us. Do we complain? Are we always finding fault? Or feeling sorry for ourselves? Or does our attitude reflect Christ? A good attitude, high vital principles, and a good mental disposition will bring glory to God.

Paul also says to be an example in faith, which means persuasion; moral conviction; credence. Faith and spirit go hand in hand. When we face trials, troubles, disaster, or heartbreak, it can be a time when our faith strengthens and grows or when our faith crumbles. To stand firm on the promise of God is to build that faith and to know He meant it when He said "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Let others see us stand strong when we are "damaged but not broken."

In January of 1996 my mother was diagnosed with cancer. One doctor "gave" her six months to live. Since she had hardly been sick a day in her 82 years, it came as quite a shock. She told me she would pray for strength, hope for recovery, but trust God for her salvation. She was ready to meet Him if He was ready to call her home. By the way, she is doing very well today. During her last visit to the oncologist, the doctor said, "Well, looks like we did a good job! I see no sign of the cancer." Mother told me, "Thank the Lord for the good job He showed them how to do!" Standing firm in the face of distress, head held high with trust in God, we will glorify Him and He will help us to be examples in faith.

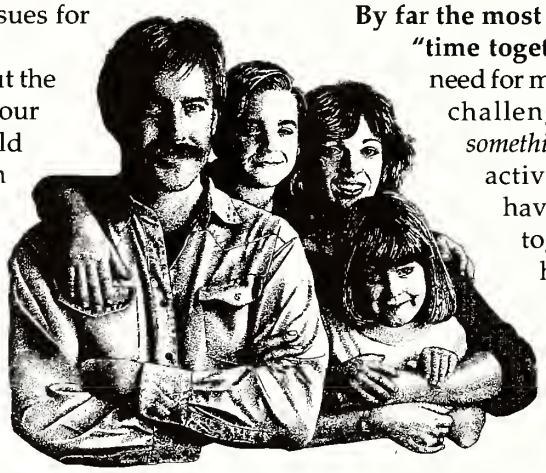
Last of all Paul says to be an example in purity, defined as cleanliness, chastity. In a world where it is "OK" to be gay or lesbian, where it is "normal" to live together, where it is "no big deal" to have a child out of wedlock, where it is "a choice" to have an abortion, we as Christians must set an example of purity in the stand for moral values that we must take. We may be called out-of-date or old fashioned. We may be told that we're not ready to cross the bridge to the twenty-first century. Someone may say to us, "Hey, get a life." But remember that God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He created the world. He created us and loved us so much He gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He promised us life everlasting if we would believe, accept and confess Jesus as Lord and ask Him to abide in our hearts. If He abides in our hearts, then He will give us the strength and boldness to be examples in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

(This message was delivered by Mrs. Prescott at the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention, meeting at Folkstone OFWB Church, on March 15, 1997).

Family Issues For Today

by De W. Eakes
Pastor, Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama, North Carolina

This article about family issues is as relevant as tomorrow's news — maybe more so. When asked to contribute an article for the May issue of *The Free Will Baptist* on issues concerning the family, I was pleased and challenged. Although I have studied this area of marriage and family life formally, and through the *school of experience*, as have all of you, I certainly am not an *expert*, I am still a student and a practitioner in living as a part of a family. For help on this project, I asked my wife, Carolyn, and several of the parents in the Church at Little Rock where I serve what they considered to be some of the most pressing and important issues for families today.



We have heard a great deal said about the fact that the "family is under attack" in our modern society. Probably, no one would argue that there is a lot of pressure on families in our very busy society or that pressures are steadily mounting. Also the family is in flux. The old, nostalgic "Ozzie & Harriet" family, consisting of: father, mother two children (a boy and a girl), a dog, a station wagon, a modest two-story home, and a white picket fence where *father always knows best*, and everything always works out right in the end, doesn't exist anywhere anymore — if it ever did!

The number one dictionary definition of *family* is, "a group of individuals living under one roof and under one head: a household." The other definition pertaining to the idea of *family*, with reference to people is, "a social unit usually consisting of one or two parents and their children." Today, the definition of *family* is varied. The number of single-parent families is growing constantly as is the number of same-gender families with children. Whether we like it or not, the definition and reality of family is changing.

Thomas Moore, author of the best seller, *Care of the Soul*, stated, "It has often been noted that most, if not all problems brought to therapists are issues of love. It makes sense that the cure is also love." While this may be an oversimplification, at the very least it makes sense that surely a part of the cure of most family malaise is genuine *agape*. The kind of self-giving, sacrificial, given-for-the-benefit-of-the-receiver, love we see taught and exemplified in Jesus, the Christ, would surely benefit any and all families.

Three times in 1 Corinthians 13:1–3, Paul states this formula, "If I speak...If I have...If I give...but have not love I am nothing." In that same beautiful, powerful chapter Paul enumerates several positive attributes and characteristics of love. He tells us what this love is and what it acts like. He describes some of what this love is not and what it does not look like. He tells us that the greatest of the *charismata*, gifts of God's grace, is this gift of *agape/love*. With Thomas Moore, the Apostle Paul, and the *New Commandment* given by Jesus in John 13:34–35, I posit that this kind of love is an absolute essential to the health of the family today.

I asked several people (men & women) where I pastor, all actively involved in the church, in careers, and the practice of parenting and family living, to tell me what they see as the major issues, needs, and challenges of family life today. I will attempt to share these concerns expressed to me in abbreviated and summary form and in some semblance of order!

By far the most prevalent response was the need for, "time together doing something." All noted the need for more *time together* as a primary and major challenge. One person added the *doing something* phrase, indicating that the particular activity was not nearly as important as having the time or making the time to be together as a family. We all know how hectic our lives can become, filled with so much busyness, clutter, and trivia. All seemed to agree that this was the foremost need of their families today. It raises the question, *where is all the time that our modern conveniences save us?* My aunt, who is seventy-one, living in a modern home, told me recently that "the greatest luxury she ever had was her first electric powered wringer-type washing machine." Of course that replaced her old iron wash-pot, scrub-board, and galvanized or wooden washtub. It made wash day shorter and much easier on the hands, arms, back, and shoulders. But, with all of our labor-saving devices, and modern methods of communication, where is all of our time?

One person has written, "The present is what slips past us while we're pondering the past and worrying about the future." Time is an elusive and most precious commodity. I shall never forget hearing Dr. John Claypool tell his story about how he came to the realization that life (time) is a gift. It was the realization that snapped him out of the deep depression after the death of his ten-year-old daughter.

You have heard that old truism, "It's not the quantity of time but the quality of time that you spend with your family that matters." Sad, but true that statement is as faulty as a screen door on a submarine is useless. It is not an either/or but a both/and issue. For there to be *quality* time there has to be a sufficient *quantity* of time together. On the other hand simply having an abundant *quantity* of time will not guarantee that it is *quality* time. Both are required for a healthy and satisfying family life. The issue is that of setting priorities so that we have both *quantity* and *quality* time together as families. We need time apart and time together; it takes conscious effort to create and maintain a healthy balance.

A directly related issued raised was the *parenting-issue/*

discipline issue. Proverbs speaks to this and I cite the following three verses. "He that sparesth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him, chasteneth him betimes" (13:24). "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (22:6). And "the rod of discipline" is alluded to in 22:15. Notice it says "discipline," not whipping, beating, hitting, abusing, etc. How do we as parents know what to do when? How much discipline to apply for which offenses? If it worked for that child, will it work with this child? What discipline is appropriate at what age? Children certainly don't come with instruction manuals! Parenting is one of the most important, and at the same time one of the most rewarding and frustrating jobs any person will ever embark upon. Paul's words are helpful, "Children, *obey your parents in the Lord*:... Honour thy father and mother...Fathers (and mothers), provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nature and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1–2, 4).

Children are "children," not miniature adults. Children are people, not property to be owned by parents. Children are all unique just as much so as are our fingerprints, yet all are stamped with the *image of God*, thus testifying to their intrinsic value. Children are gifts of God's grace and love entrusted to us for our care, nurture, love, and guidance. We need to be so very careful not to transfer our frustrated childhood dreams onto them or to attempt to live out our lives through their accomplishments — that is too heavy a weight for our children to bear. We need to guide, discipline, instruct, care for, help them to become, let them go at the appropriate time, and, above all, love them greatly. Sometimes with gentle, warm-fuzzy, tender love and sometimes with tough love. As a parent, one thing that I have learned is that I really know very little about parenting. When our son was an infant, a bachelor at our church told us that if we needed any advice about parenting to ask him or a lady who had never married, because since they did not have any children, they were experts on the subject of children...I believe he was on to something there. As a parent I prayed a lot then — and still do even now about being a parent (our son is twenty-five now).

The need to share and teach strong, positive values to our children was voiced by several of the parents with whom I talked. William J. Bennett's, *Book of Virtues*, talks about the needs for strong, positive, Christian values. In the book, *The Blackboard Fumble* , (1989), subtitled: *Finding a place for values in public education*, talks about the dearth of values in public education and the need to return to the teaching of values. It is interesting that in the 1996–1997 rhetoric we are hearing more and more about *teaching values* in the curriculum of the public schools. The home, the family, which is the primary place for the teaching of values, needs to "shape-up" on this issue. It is the home/family that is the basic institution of society and it is here that primary values have to be taught. Those positive, strong, Christian values taught in the home then need to be strongly reinforced in both the home and the school.

One of the values that kept coming up in conversation was *respect*. If a child lives with respect, he/she will learn to respect self, others, and God. This is also true with truth, honesty, love, and other values. In a kindergarten through grade five school in Johnston County, last year, I saw two large banners hanging over the two main exits from the cafeteria. The banners had one word on them — RESPECT. Certainly that is an important value much needed at every level of modern society and in family life. God forgive us for teaching children prejudice, hatred, vengeance, envy, greed, etc. Values are both caught and taught. We need to both teach and exemplify strong, positive, Christian values before our children.

Another need voiced by those whom I questioned was the need to worship together regularly and to share spiritually. Our spirituality is one of the most intimate areas of our being — it is soul-sharing. To worship as a family is a wonderful experience. As a pastor, when I see entire families, sometimes three and four generations of the same family worshipping together it is a blessing to me. When I see children with one parent not there, that is painful for me — because that is the way I grew up. I remain eternally grateful that one of my parents *insisted* that I attend all church activities regularly (even the parent that did not attend also *insisted* that I attend regularly). When I see children that attend without either living parent, I applaud the children and think that these parents are missing some real blessings and precious moments that they will never even know about. "The family that prays together" doesn't always "stay together." But the percentages are much higher among families who are active practitioners of their faith than among the non-faith community. When we share our faith, our spirituality, worship, pray, and praise God together we experience an added dimension of intimacy and of love otherwise unknown.

It was interesting that not even *one* of the persons I asked made any comment about finances or material concerns. Reflecting on this caused me to remember these statements of a local *philosopher* as my wife and I were enjoying some *quality time* over a cup of coffee and a piece of pie at about 9:30 PM, after she had worked a twelve-hour shift. This man, who was seated directly behind us, said to his friend, "Material things ain't nothing if you have to cheat people and lie to get them. As long as I can face this ugly mug in the mirror in the morning with a clear conscience, that's what really matters to me." This bit of Waffle House wisdom, I believe Jesus would appreciate. I don't know if that man was a Christian or not — but this little bit of his value system surely sounded Christian.

This article has only scratched the surface of a *few important issues* facing the family today. There are so many other issues, like media exposure for children; children growing older too soon; drugs/alcohol; and overly sexually stimulated culture, etc. However, I believe that these parents pointed to some of the basic core concerns that we need to address. These issues are important for all of us. I trust we will allow God's love to challenge and direct us in these and all other issues challenging the family and that we will be open to all positive helps and helpers that we have available to us and our families.

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

Keep On Keeping On

by Julia Pate Gaskins

Two young children seated at the dining table had finished their meal and asked to be excused. As their mother granted their polite request, they slipped down from their chairs and walked in her direction.

"I enjoyed my dinner," said one. "That was a good dinner, Mother," said the other, as they went back to their play.

"Do your children always thank you after every meal?" asked the guest.

"Usually they do," said their mother. "Their father has always had the habit of letting me know he appreciated the meal I have prepared for the family. I think the children just like to do what he does."

The family in this home lived with a thankful attitude. People who live in a home like this learn something very real about being grateful for blessings.

For what are you thankful? Your home and family? A friend's assistance when you are ill? The stranger who allows you to enter a busy stream of traffic? The clerk who graciously serves you?

We are all thankful for the beauty of the fields, the trees and pretty flowers. We love the hills, valleys, lakes, and rivers. We thank God for the gifts that He gives us every day.

Aldric and I are excited about the wonderful things that are happening at Camp Vandemere, and we are thankful. God is blessing. He is speaking to our people and our churches. You are responding. God continues to answer prayers. Our needs are being met. We thank God and we thank you.

It's almost time for camping season to begin. I hope you have already chosen your week of camp and your director. If you need a schedule and an application, please call Aldric or me and we will mail you one. You can call us at Vandemere at 919–745–3171, or at home at 919–637–4949. We want to have every week full and overflowing. Our directors all welcome you.

Ladies, don't forget your week. We're saving the very special week of June 16–20 for you. Plan now to be there for a great spiritual blessing. Audrey Quinn is your director, so bring your fun shoes, cause you're gonna have fun.

A thoughtless person once said to Helen Keller, "Isn't it awful to be blind? She replied, "Not half so bad as to have two good eyes and never see anything." Sometimes we are guilty of looking at the blessings of God and not really seeing them. I hope this in not true of your view of Camp Vandemere. Please look at us and see us. We have a wonderful place here that God has given the Free Will Baptist people.

Churches, you have been so good to us, but I do have one more BIG favor to ask of you. When you budget committee meets, please put Camp Vandemere in your budget, and I ask that you be generous. I believe that Camp Vandemere is of God. Help us to maintain the progress that has been made and keep our camp a place that will bring honor and glory to His Name.

Let us pray together this prayer: "Open my eyes Lord, I want to see Jesus." There are many places that I would like to see. I'd like to go to the Holy Land and see the place where Jesus walked. It's my desire to see my family always happy, and to see my grandchildren growing mentally, physically, and spiritually. I want to be able to always see right from wrong. Most of all, I want to see Jesus someday.

People do not all see alike. It is my prayer that each of you will see Camp Vandemere as a place that is a vision realized. The vision began almost thirty years ago with some great men of God. Let us keep this vision alive by being a part of and supporting Camp Vandemere.

The Rev. J. C. Griffin was my pastor for many years. He was a great man of God, and is still an inspiration to all who knew him. One of his favorite things to say was, "Children, we have to KEEP ON KEEPING ON. We have work to do." This was his motto and it was certainly the way he lived his life. May we also KEEP ON KEEPING ON for Camp Vandemere and for God, because, children, we have work to do.

Summer Schedule for 1997

June 6–7
Layman's League
Spiritual
Life Retreat

June 9–13
Craig Simmons,
Director
919–633–9838

June 16–20
Woman's Week:
Audrey Quinn,
Director
919–638–6406

June 23–27
Open

June 30–July 4
Kevin Jackson,
Director
910–298–3936

July 7–11
Eva Mae Clark,
Director
919–637–5346

July 14–18
Stanley Buck,
Director
919–823–3964

July 21–25
Joe Ratcliff, Director
919–244–0207

July 28–Aug. 1
Jason Modlin,
Director
919–658–7170

August 4–8
Youth Missions
Retreat Week
Ray & Ginny Conner,
Directors
919–223–4750

Holly Springs Ladies Class Sponsors Fundraiser for Camp Vandemere

The Ladies Class of Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC sponsored an oyster fritter and crabcake plate supper in the church fellowship hall on November 16. The supper was a fund-raiser for Camp Vandemere, which received heavy damages from Hurricanes Bertha and Fran. Friends from the camp, church, and community made the supper a success. A total of $2,800 was raised, and WOW Lodge 188 in Morehead City contributed $200 as a matching funds project to make the total $3,000.



During the morning worship service on January 12, 1997, at Holly Springs, Susan Davis (right) presented Mr. and Mrs. Aldric Gaskins, camp managers, with a check for $3,000.



Lois Bryan (left) presents a check from the Cherubs class, little children who saved their pennies to help.



Following the morning services, the class and friends enjoyed a hot dog lunch with all the trimmings. Pictured are class members (left to right) Martha Atkinson, Lillie Mae Haskett, Lois Pringle, and Ina Gould.

Layman's League

Attention: All Layman!

There will be a Layman's League Singspiration at Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, near Vanceboro, NC, May 3, 1997. Supper will be served at 6:00 PM followed by the Singspiration at 7:00 PM. Singers are needed. If you or your church group can participate, please contact Elmer Harrell at 919–747–2894. Everyone is invited to join in the fellowship.

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All layman, pastors, ministry directors, and officers, are urged to attend the State Layman's League meeting on May 9, 1997, at Tarboro Church. Supper will be served at 7:00 PM, followed by the business meeting. Please plan to attend.

Dates to Remember

May 1	Promotional Committee FWB Headquarters, Ayden, 7:00 PM
May 3	Layman's Singspiration Juniper Chapel FWB Church, Vanceboro Supper – 6:00 PM, Sing – 7:00 PM
May 9	State Layman's Meeting, Tarboro FWB Church Supper – 7:00 PM, Business – 7:45 PM
June 6–7	Layman's Spiritual Life Retreat Camp Vandemere Friday Night "Called Out" Gospel Group See Registration Form and Schedule Everyone Invited!

Registration for Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1997.

Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League. ($5.00).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Church: _____

Conference: _____

Home Telephone: _____

(Check appropriate blanks)

_____*I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 7, 1997.*

_____*I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 6, 1997.*

Please return this form to:

Mr. Elmer Harrell
502 S.E. 3rd Street, Snow Hill, NC 28580



MISSION STATEMENT

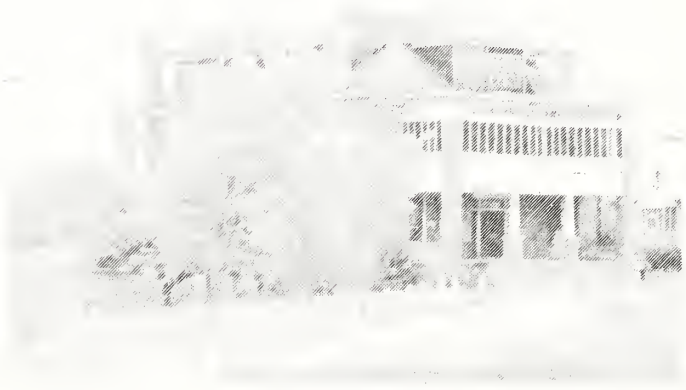
Children are our most valued resource. Our home is dedicated to the ministry of returning children to a family by providing for children's physical, emotional and spiritual needs. This is accomplished in a nurturing environment with professional care. Since 1920 the Children's Home has been a ministry for children.

We are currently serving 57 children in five cottages and Genesis House Emergency Shelter. We continue to meet their basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. But, the needs of the children we serve go far beyond the basics to include medical, psychological services, and special education. Many of these services are offered on our campus through services like family clarification, tutorial program, individual and group counseling. Our staff is dedicated to children providing them with a nurturing environment while meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

May is here!! Every church should have received materials needed for our CHANGE FOR CHILDREN campaign which was developed to help raise awareness of Children's Home month and increase church support. Please use the change bags and instruction bulletin to help us make it a success in your church. If your church needs more change bags, please contact us and we will be happy to send more.

Did You Know?

In 1915, the Convention adopted a resolution calling for the building of a home for orphans. The Children's Home is currently serving 57 children in Middlesex and Genesis House Emergency Shelter.



First Building

In 1916, the convention pledged itself to build the home and elected a board of trustees. Nearly 100 Free Will Baptists have served on the Board of Directors of the Home. Each conference is represented on the Board.

In 1917, construction began on the first building (3 stories, full basement, and 31 rooms). Today's campus consists of 5 cottages, church, recreation center, gym, and administration buildings.

On May 23, 1920, the pledge became reality. The first children, Nellie, Helen, Dorothy, and Carl Whitley, were admitted to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The Children's Home ministry proudly celebrates 77 years of service to children by providing quality Christian care to more than 1,200 children over the years.

May is Children's Home Month

June is Cragmont Month!

It's time now to begin planning a special recognition in your church for Cragmont next month. We ask that you consider at least one of the following suggestions:

- Have a special Cragmont service one Sunday during the month.
- Take a special Cragmont offering.
- Have someone or several people give a brief testimony during the worship service each Sunday of the month. Have them focus on their spiritual experiences while attending a conference or retreat. There are many people who accept Christ and/or the call to the ministry at Cragmont.
- Each Sunday during the worship service have your congregation pray for the staff who work at Cragmont. Pray that this ministry will touch many lives during the 1997 year.

TO ALL MINISTERS OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

The Executive Committee of the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptist wishes to invite you to come to The Ministers Conference at Cragmont Assembly on June 9–12, 1997. This is our annual meeting and we would like for you to attend. If you plan to attend, please fill out this preregistration form and return it as soon as possible. The cost of preregistration will be $35.00. This money will cover your membership in the Association and your picture for the week.

Make all checks payable to **The North Carolina Ministerial Association** and mail this form and your check to:

Doug Skinner
817 Lynn Road • Durham, NC 27703
Please return this form by June 1, 1997

Ministers Conference June 9–12, 1997

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Please indicate your building preference. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis!

Main Building_____ Motel _____ Floyd House _____ Dorm _____

I will be staying off campus _____

Do you have any existing health problems that would prevent you from being on the second floor? Yes _____ No _____

Please indicate in the space below with whom you wish to room with if you will be staying in the Main Building or the Motel.

_____

_____ Check here if you plan on eating supper at Cragmont on Monday night, June 9.

Please Note: All minister's wives who stay on campus will room in the dorm behind the dining hall. _____ Check here if your wife will be staying on campus.

If you wish to join the Ministerial Association this year but cannot attend our conference, you may join or renew your membership by sending $30.00 membership dues to DOUG SKINNER, 817 LYNN ROAD, DURHAM, NC 27703.

Please be advised that all rooms at Cragmont will have a per room charge instead of an individual charge as we have had in the past. Please see John Williams about the new rates.

SUMMER CONFERENCES

June Woman's Auxiliary
June 2–7, 1997
Teresa Ball
(919–524–4677)
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Minister's
June 9–12, 1997
Doug Skinner
(919–596–2456)
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703

Christian Cadet
June 16–21, 1997
Gary Bailey
(919–735–3916)
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier (YFA)
June 23–28, 1997
Scott and Janie Sowers
(919–321–7542)
Post Office Box 639
Bell Arthur, NC 27811

Youth Frontier (AFC)
June 30–July 5, 1997
Frankie Baggett
(919–746–3534)
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II
July 7–12, 1997
Chris Singleton
(910–298–3520)
Post Office Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I
July 14–19, 1997
Bryant Hines
(919–683–3436)
Post Office Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Young People's Bible
July 21–26, 1997
Jesse Fulcher
(919–223–5836)
144 Holly Springs Road
Newport, NC 28570

August Woman's Auxiliary
July 28–August 2, 1997
Teresa Ball
(919–524–4677)
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

THE LILLIAN KINARD GRUBBS ERA

All 10 members of the Grubbs family attended Mount Olive, making a clean sweep.

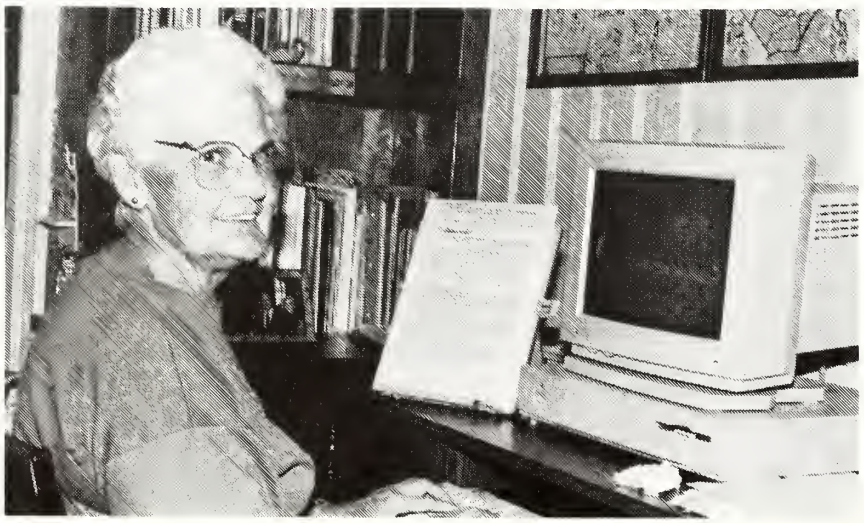
Ministering takes many roads, talents, and shapes. One extraordinary story of ministering is that of Mrs. Lillian Kinard Grubbs of Mount Olive ...and of Plymouth, Princeton, Kinston, and previously of Mount Olive...before that, of Perry, Dade City, Tampa, and Plant City, all in Florida...and before that, of rural Americus, Georgia.

Mrs. Grubbs' life journey of 74 years has been a meandering one to get her where she is today. She has touched many lives along the way, and those whom she has raised, nurtured and helped are now out serving others. She was the wife of a Free Will Baptist minister who pastored at eight churches; mother of eight — five of whom are FWB ministers, grandmother of 18 children, and great grandmother of three!

Slowing down only a bit, Mrs. Grubbs still works, albeit part-time, for the Mount Olive College Press in the College's Administration Building. Not intimidated for a minute by technology, you are likely to find her sitting in front of a computer or at a copier with enough buttons to befuddle a Ph.D.

And if you walk through the lobby, you may see flowers from Mrs. Grubbs' garden on the receptionist's desk . And if you go into the break room in search of coffee, you may be lucky if it's one of those days that she brought in a coffee cake or pie from her kitchen.

Lillian Kinard was child number six in a farming family of seven children. She was born in Georgia, and the family moved to a strawberry farm in Plant City, Florida, approximately 50 miles east of Tampa. Years later, she met a boy named Herman Adrian Grubbs while working at a fruit packing plant, and in time, they married. She was 20.



The Grubbses made their home in Perry, Florida, where Herman grew up. Over the next 16 years, he and Lillian brought eight children, six boys and two girls, into the world.

In 1958, Herman and Lillian began looking for a Christian college for their eldest son, Adrian. Fortuitously, they met Dr. W. Burkette Raper at a church convention and learned of Mount Olive Junior College. A year later, on a hot August afternoon, Herman and Lillian Grubbs and their eight children arrived in Mount Olive. At the time, Herman was a rural mail carrier, and was able to trade routes with a Goldsboro man who wanted to move to Florida.

Herman was also a minister for most of his adult life. Over the next 15 years, he pastored at eight Free Will Baptist churches in North Carolina, some two at a time. And most people realize that when a pastor serves, so too does the pastor's wife in a multitude of ways. So, Mrs. Grubbs' days were filled raising her eight children, taking care of her husband, and serving as a pastor's wife.

These pastorships took the Grubbs family to Long Ridge FWB Church, Snow Hill FWB Church, Northeast FWB Church, Indian Springs FWB Church, Grey Branch FWB Church, Jackson Heights FWB Church, Tees Chapel FWB Church, and finally to the First FWB Church of Plymouth where Herman passed away of an aneurysm in 1974.

During these years, Lillian and Herman were putting their children through Mount Olive College, each as he or she came of age. On returning to Mount Olive in 1974, Lillian, at the age of 51 enrolled herself in a one-year business program. She received a certificate of completion at the same graduation that her youngest son, Paul, received his associate degree.

And years earlier, Herman had also attended the College taking every religion course offered. Thus, all 10 members of the Grubbs family attended Mount Olive, making a clean sweep — certainly a record for Mount Olive College and likely a record of note in the state and perhaps beyond.

Since then, two grandsons have attended the College. And the legacy goes on.

Mrs. Grubbs' youngest daughter, Sandy, now an insurance adjuster in Goldsboro, was the first member of the family to be granted a four-year degree when the College converted from a two-year school to a four-year school in 1985.

Five of Mrs. Grubbs' sons went on to become Free Will Baptist ministers and one became a school principal. And her other daughter, Muriel, became a school nurse.

For the record, Adrian pastors the Deep Run FWB Church; Harry is a chaplain at the state correctional center in Maury; Leon is pastor at Hull Road FWB, in Snow Hill; Darrell is school principal at B.F. Grady Elementary School near Albertson; Frank is pastor of the First FWB Church in Selma; and Paul pastors St. Paul FWB Church in Elizabeth City.

With still more to give, Mrs. Grubbs returned to the College after a short stint working at the Belk-Tyler store in Kinston to be secretary to the Academic Dean and the Dean of Students for the next five years. She continued to work in the Office of the Academic Dean until officially retiring in August 1996.

"I've seen the College from when it was a single building on Breazeale Avenue in downtown Mount Olive," Mrs. Grubbs said. "It's grown a lot since then."

"I miss the interaction with the students and faculty," she said.

To capture some of the interaction she misses, Mrs. Grubbs still comes to the College two days a week and provides administrative support for Dr. Pepper Worthington and the Mount Olive College Press.

Today, not everyone knows Mrs. Grubbs' story, but nearly everyone on campus knows who she is.

When not at the College, Mrs. Grubbs is home on McGee Street in Mount Olive. She keeps herself busy reading, crocheting, and working at other crafts. She lives alone quite contentedly, but family, especially daughter Sandy, and friends check-in frequently. She is a member of Snow Hill FWB Church and teaches Sunday school to young adults once a month.

Thanking her for her long service to the College, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president during most of the Grubbs family's close association with Mount Olive, said, "Few families have had a deeper and more significant involvement in this institution than the Grubbs...Here were parents with a vision and a commitment for the future of their eight children."

Indeed, the living story of Mrs. Lillian Kinard Grubbs and her family is extraordinary and deserves recognition in the history of the Free Will Baptist Church and Mount Olive College. This account stands as a mere acknowledgment with details left for others to tell.

May Calendar of Events

May 4	**4:00 PM**	**Commencement Worship Service, College Hall**
May 6	**Time TBD**	**Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Hennessee Room, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**
May 10	**10:00 AM**	**Commencement, College Hall, for students from the Mount Olive campus, Seymour Johnson AFB campus, and the Criminal Justice Program**
May 10	**2:30 PM**	**Commencement, College Hall, for students from the New Bern and Wilmington campuses and Mount Olive's evening college.**
May 13	**7:00 PM**	**Wilson County Society for Mount Olive College dinner, Willow Springs Country Club**
May 16–18		**FWB State Youth Convention, Mount Olive campus**
May 26	**8:00 AM**	**First Session of Summer School begins, Mount Olive campus.**

News Briefs from Mount Olive College Authors

Two faculty members have books "for sale" in the College Bookstore.

Dr. Michael E. Cavanagh, Professor of Psychology, is author of *Before the Wedding*, a 202-page how-to book published in 1994 by Westminster Press/John Knox Press in Louisville, Kentucky. The book's subtitle is *Look Before You Leap* and has 10 chapters which suggest how an individual should prepare seriously for marriage. The book sells for $15.00.

Dr. David E. Rigsbee, Visiting Professor of English, authored the text of *Trailers*, a 93-page portrayal of trailer living in Appalachia. Dr. Rigsbee collaborated with Photographer Carol Burch-Brown whose 48 black & white photographs combined with Rigsbee's words paint a sensitive picture of a slice of America's social landscape. *Trailers* was published in 1996 by the University Press of Virginia and sells for $16.95.

In addition to *Before the Wedding* and *Trailers*, the College Book Store is also offering Dr. Michael Pelt's 400-page *History of Original Free Will Baptists* for $21.95 and the Mount Olive College Press's 700-page *1995–1996 Mount Olive Review* for $25.00.

It's their sign from God

Worship at this church is like nothing you've heard

— by Jim Washington

Copyright 1996 Release on "Saturday Extra" Article on Covenant of the Deaf along with all pictures with the article.

HOPE MILLS — Linda Bristow leads the congregation in song.

To an unfamiliar ear, her clipped, muffled speech sounds like a foreign language or a record played backward.

But her hands speak beautifully.

The six people in the small, dimly-lit Covenant of the Deaf Free Will Baptist Mission Church mimic the intricate movements of Bristow's sign language. The small group of deaf worshipers have been meeting together for five years to share their love of God in an environment suited to their needs.

They met for the first time on Father's Day in 1990 at the Haymount Original Free Will Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Six months later they moved into a building on Orchard Street in Hope Mills. They called themselves the Victory First Deaf Church. The signs out front still read Victory First, although they've changed the name.

They came together because they felt they didn't have a place they could worship comfortably.

"We could encourage other deaf people to learn about God and not be lost in a hearing church," Bristow said through the church's interpreter, Marin Bandel. Bristow and her husband, Charles, have been part of the church since its beginning.

"We wanted to learn God's Word in a way we could understand," Charles Bristow said.



The Rev. Al Markuson, left, preaches at Covenant of the Deaf Free Will Baptist Mission as Marin Bandel signs his message.

Linda Bristow has a wide, happy face topped with gray hair. She wears glasses and is dressed casually. Craig Smith is a big man with thinning black hair and a mustache. He wears a racing T-shirt. His wife, Debra, is tiny and signs a mile a minute. Larry Merritt is a slight man who wears a pale suit.

They don't know of another church for the deaf in the area. Many deaf people in the community attend hearing church, they say, and have a fulfilling experience. It was their preference to meet together on their own.

They felt lost in a hearing church — there was no interpreter, the pastor talked too fast to read lips and there were no opportunities to serve.

"In a hearing church all a deaf person can really do is sit and try to keep up," Bandel said. "You can't be a deacon or a preacher or an usher. All your skills and potential are not used. Some hearing people don't know what to do with them."

The members stress that the hearing church is not wrong for all deaf people, just for them.

"Deaf and hearing, we love both," Bristow said. "It's hard for me to explain the deaf experience. We like hearing people, and enjoy being with them, but it's easier to communicate



Linda Bristow, left, Charles Bristow and Larry Merritt praised God at the Convention of the Deaf Free Will Baptist Mission.

with other deaf people."

Above all, they want to praise God and encourage other deaf and hearing people to hear His word.

After the opening song, Merritt makes announcements. His aunt has been hurt in a car accident. He points to his side then breaks an invisible stick with his hands, describing her injury more graphically than words could. He asks the congregation to pray for her.

A knitted brow

Then the Rev. Al Markuson steps to the podium. To his right is Bandel.

Markuson reads from the Bible, using the letters of Paul to describe the process of spiritual growth. Bandel mouths the words as she signs, so the congregation can read her lips. They watch her, then the preacher.

"It's like playing Ping-Pong with your eyes," Merritt said.

Bandel usually wins the battle for attention. In addition to American Sign Language, she uses facial expressions and plain old body language to get the message across. A smile, a knitted brow or a stern look conveys as much meaning as a word or gesture.

"You can't just stand there like a robot and sign," she said. "That would not show the true meaning of the words."

She doesn't translate Markuson's sermon verbatim. He talks too fast and it would take too much time. She translates his ideas and images into an understandable form for the congregation.

"When you interpret you're listening to someone who's talking so fast there's not much time to decide what to say and what not to say," she said. "You do your best and hope you remain true to the meaning."

Markuson became pastor of Covenant of the Deaf in September. He ministers to the Crossridge Original Free Will Baptist Mission Church, too. The two congregations share the Hope Mills building to save money.

He replaced the Rev. Bruce Dudley, a hearing minister, who conducted services in sign language. Markuson doesn't know how to sign, but he's learning.

"We were heartbroken when Bruce left," Merritt said. "But now we have a new member of the family."

Word for word

Markuson had to change his style of preaching somewhat for the deaf congregation.

"With a hearing group I just give the passage and sort of take off," he said. "You can't just present it in just the same way."

He finds himself slowing down, reading the passage word for word instead of having the audience read along. If they did, their attention would be diverted from the interpreter.

A preacher's job is to hold people's attention. Everyone in Markuson's congregation watches the interpreter, including his wife and daughter, both who can hear.

"Most preachers are used to making eye contact," he said. "Of course, here they have to watch Marin. I've learned to just go on and share and preach, and it doesn't take away anything. I'm more relaxed. I'm completely comfortable with her translating."

After the service, church members hang around, laughing and chatting with a flurry of hand signing. They all feel that they've grown spiritually since coming to the church.

"If I need help, I can go to the people here," Bristow said. "If I had only a hearing preacher, how could I ask him for a prayer?"

The group has only seven core members, but it is hopeful about attracting more. Either way, they don't need numbers to accomplish their mission.

"We can praise God whether we're big or small," Bristow said.

Printed by permission, ***Fayetteville Observer – Times,*** **December 14, 1996. Copyright 1996.**

Rural Emphasis Hits the Trail

Toward the goal of serving all of America's youth, the BSA has introduced the Rural Emphasis program. Approximately 25 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural municipalities, which the U.S. Census Bureau defines as having fewer than 2,500 inhabitants. Most rural areas have decentralized and low-density populations . Some have startlingly impoverished conditions. All of these factors present a challenge to Scouting.

The Rural Emphasis program has three goals:

- To help councils better serve rural areas, including low-income areas
- To implement appropriate Scouting methods and collateral materials
- To broaden the knowledge of the Scouting professional serving rural territories

Many materials have been developed for the program including a videotape and slide show called *Scouting in Rural America.* For more information, contact:

Commission On Scouting for Original Free Will Baptist
PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
(919) 746–4963

"As I See It"

#_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

by Mr. Charles Bristow
Covenant of the Deaf, OFWB Mission Church,
Hope Mills, NC

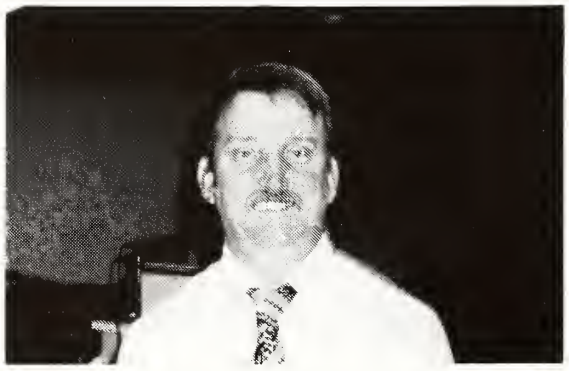
Is your Social Security number important? Yes! You have probably memorized it. You need to use it for so many reasons, such as getting a loan from the bank. The bank person will ask for your SS#. On a job application you write down your SS#. When you file your income tax papers every year, you must write down your SS# again. To buy a house, a new car, to apply for insurance, your SS# is always requested. Why is our SS# so important? It identifies who we are. It's what we call our ID.

I would advise that people listen to a song entitled "Please Search the Book Again." This song is taken from Revelation 20:15. It talks about the "Book of Life." If you die and your name is not in the "Book of Life," you will be thrown into the Lake of Fire forever.

The Lake of Fire or Hell was made by God for the devil and his angels — not for people. If people refuse to accept Jesus into their hearts and lives before they die, then they too will go to hell as punishment for rejecting the Gift of Salvation. So, the *only* way to get your name into the "Book of Life" is to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and come into your life.

I know my SS# by memory. I also *know* that my name is in the "Book of Life." In 1985 I became a Christian when I asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive my sins and come into my life. My name was put into the "Book of Life" then and there it remains!

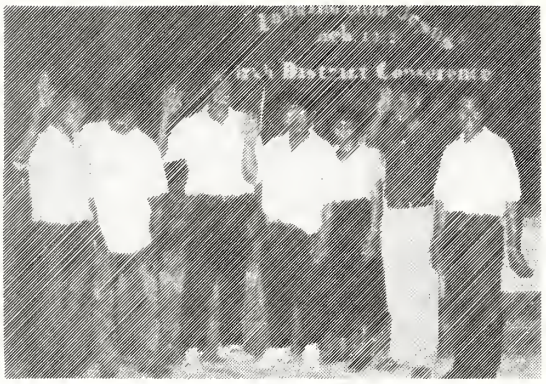
Is your name there? Are you sure that your "SS#/ID" is in the "Book of Life?" Do not wait until it is too late. It will be a very sad day when you get to Judgment Day and see that your name (SS#) is not there.



Mr. Charles Bristow

North District Conference

by Dario Basingil



The North District held its Ninth District Conference on February 3–5, 1997 at the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Calaway, TayTay, Palawan. The theme was "Looking Unto Jesus" with the Scripture taken from Hebrews 12:2.

On the last day of the Conference the following officers were appointed: Chairman, the Rev. Juanito Dulce; Vice Chairman, the Rev. Arturo Aspa; Secretary, Jocelyn Lahao-Lahao; Treasurer, Gorgonio Matte; Auditor, the Rev. Alex Lahao-Lahao; Christian Relations Officers, Arnold Togre and Pepito Nehemias. The Rev. Dario Basingil, Missions Director, spoke on Mark 3:13–19.

South District Conference Palawan, Philippines

by Dario Basingil

The South District Conference was held on February 27–28, 1997 at the Narra Free Will Baptist Church, Narra, Palawan. The theme of the two-day conference was "All Things Work Together for Good."



The participating churches were: Balacan, Aribungos, Tabon, Narra, Abo-abo and Bethany. The following officers were appointed: Chairman, the Rev. Eder Peralta; Vice Chairman, the Rev. Rowe Mondia; Secretary, Elizabeth Pasiona; Treasurer, the Rev. Junjie Buscano; Auditor, Norma Cuba; Christian Relations Officers, the Rev. Amorio Lansap and Norberto Malnes.



On the last night of the Conference we had a Lord's Supper Service, the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr., officiated. He was assisted by the Revs. Dario Basingil and Amorio Lansap.

Youth Wins STT Trip to Mexico

At the 1996 Youth Convention, the Board of Foreign Missions gave those in attendance ages 13–18 an opportunity to register for a drawing to join an expense-paid Short-Term Team to Mexico in 1997. The drawing took place during the Awards Banquet on Saturday night. Candace Joyner from Rocky Mount was the winner. Candace will be a member of the June 14–24 team and is excited about this great opportunity to minister in Mexico.

The Board of Foreign Missions will have another drawing at the Youth Convention in May 1997 for a Short-Term Team in the summer of 1998. To qualify you must be a member of a Free Will Baptist Church, ages 13–18 and be active in their local youth group.

Come by the Foreign Missions display, you may be chosen to be on a team in 1998.

Short-Term Team ministry is a great opportunity for youth and adults to minister in a cross-cultural situation that will be an exciting and life-changing experience. Don't wait to win a place on the team, join now for 1998. (Dates are June 13–23 and July 11–21) Write or call: Board of Foreign Missions, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; Phone: 919–746–4963.



Candace Joyner & Sandra Jones



Youth registering to win
the Short-Term Team Trip.

Crisis Intervention

by Zacarias Perocillo

In social work the above stated phrase simply means: an act of helping someone who is in the midst of crisis, until that someone is able to help him or herself, or until the members of the community will be able to help such a person.

During Jesus Christ's ministry, He responded to many crises; for example, He fed the five thousand people by multiplying the number of fishes and bread such that baskets of extra food were collected by the disciples. The blind and crippled people He met were helped by Him, even the dead were raised by Jesus.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and He is present wherever His people are. So when I meet someone who is sick and needs my prayer, I pray for them. When they need referrals to hospitals, especially to the government hospitals or Christian doctors, I respond immediately. When someone is in prison without having been convicted, I will provide legal counsel. When they have already been convicted I will petition the court for them to apply for probation or parole. When confused, I will provide guidance and counseling, when hungry refer them to the government social welfare and when jobless, I will recommend them to companies who need workers.

This kind of ministry aforecited, is very effective as a way of introducing the gospel to the unsaved. I can still remember in the early 1970s in our Palawan experience, the Rev. Harold Jones and I were crisscrossing the city proper. Many were evading from our presence in their homes by slipping out of their homes and hiding in the bushes. But when Leonarda Samones suffered from a slipped disc, through our referral she was healed in the Orthopedic Hospital in Manila. We baptized converts left and right and our new church building was quickly filled with people.

Here in Cebu City, the home of Santo Niño (the Holy Child), the Christ whose image is manufactured and exported throughout the world even to the United States, conversion is very slow and difficult. But when we began using the method of "Crisis Intervention" our problem now, especially in Cebu City, is how to accommodate our converts in our worship services.

So like Jesus' method, we discipled those whom we baptized and even trained them formally as pastors through TEE (Theological Education by Extension). Not that we don't need our Bible School, we do, but since the need for workers for the cities of the Visayas and Mindanao is urgent, hence, the TEE and thereafter continuous discipling through mini-seminars. Whenever I visit their places of work and whenever they come to me for anything, I teach them demonstrating to them about church planting, church administration, church leadership, with the hope that they will catch the vision. Multiplying our kind is the best way for church growth.

Included with this article is a picture of the Rev. and Mrs. Junifer Yarag, the Regional Manager of a big insurance company in Mindanao, but he wants to become a full-time church planter for Mindanao. He had been trained through the TEE program. Pastors called to plant churches in the cities of the world need to be well trained in the Word of God, truly called and anointed by the Holy Spirit. This will happen only when such ministers will willingly put their lives on the line. We are assured that we are winners because every true Christian is always victorious through our Lord Jesus Christ.





May 1997

Children's Home Month

SUN	MON	TUE	
27	28	29	30
4 4:00 PM MOC Commencement Worship Service	**5**	**6**	**7** Church Fi
11 *Mother's Day*	**12**	**13** Foreign Missions Board Meeting 7:00 PM Wilson County Society for Mount Olive College Dinner, Willow Springs Country Club	**14**
18 *State Youth Con...*	**19**	**20**	**21**
25	**26** FWB Press and Bookstores Closed Headquarters Closed 8:00 AM MOC Session A Begins *Memorial Day (Observed)*	**27**	**28**

Family Enrichment Series • Saint Mary's FWB Church • New Bern, NC • 7:30 PM

ncerns _____

Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00 PM Layman's League Executive Board *National Day of Prayer*	**2**	**3** Layman's League Singspiration
		Philippines Short-Term Mission	
ard Meeting	**8** State Woman's Auxiliary Convention, White Oak Church, Bladenboro	**9** State Layman's League, Tarboro Church, Business 7:45 PM	**10** MOC Board of Trustees 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM MOC Graduation
	15 7:30 PM Children's Home Board Meeting	**16**	**17** State Layman's League Convention *Armed Forces Day*
		State Youth Convention	
y	**22**	**23** Children's Home Anniversary (77 years)	**24**
	29	**30** *Memorial Day (Traditional)*	**31**

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

A Call to Prayer for Revival in Our Nation and Around the World

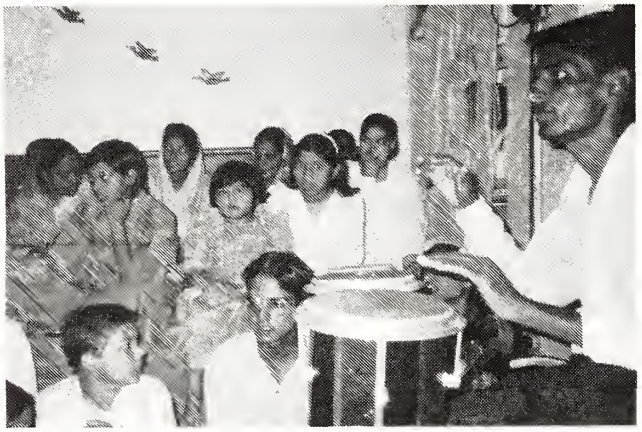
— by **Harold Jones**

The National Day of Prayer is May 1, 1997. This day has been set aside to bring our nation back to God, back to the Christian principles on which it was founded, and to bring revival to the land. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

This is a clear call to renewal. God is ready to abundantly pardon and restore. We must pray. I encourage each individual and church to make this a special day of prayer. Seek Him with your whole heart and intercede for our nation. This could well be the day that revival breaks out across this land.

From revival always comes deep concern for those who are lost and the church moves out as God's ambassadors to the ends of the earth with the gospel message.

"Build One for Them"



In the past three years the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions work has expanded into large cities in the countries where we have ministry. This has created a whole new set of challenges in outreach and ministry. It has also reminded us of the vast difference in construction cost. Land and buildings are much more expensive than in the rural areas. It is, however, essential that we provide adequate buildings for these new congregations or the fruit of our labor will be lost in these cities. The Board set aside a three month period for prayer before making a decision on this matter. After prayer the following plan, that we firmly believe is of the Lord, was approved.

"Build One for Them" is the name given to the significant step of faith. We will challenge churches that have completed building programs of their own to now turn their energy and attention toward constructing a church building for one of our congregations in another country. We also challenge churches with building plans to "Build One for Them" at the same time you construct your building. **The Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church is planning to build a classroom building on the property in Goldsboro. In response to the need for church buildings in the countries where we have Foreign Missions work, the Stoney Creek congregation approved a plan to contribute 10% of the cost of their new building to the "Build One for Them" program. We commend this church for their step of faith and challenge other churches to do the same.**

The church will be provided with monthly progress reports and pictures of construction. A Short-Term Team can be developed from the congregation to go and spend a period of time helping with the construction. At the completion of the project the pastor and one or more representatives from the church will be encouraged to attend the dedication service. A large framed, color picture will be presented to the church in a special service in recognition of your unselfish love and commitment to others. This will be an exciting way for a church to become involved with a sister congregation on one of our fields in a very personal way. Please began to pray about this and trust God for His answer and supply.

Transportation for Missions Director Philippines

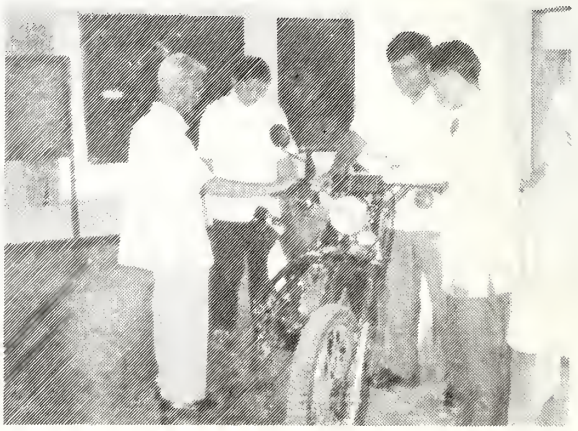
by Dario Basingil

On February 26, 1997, a Honda motorcycle was purchased for the Missions Director to use in visiting churches on Palawan. The motorcycle was registered in the name of "Free Will Baptist Church Philippines."

A Thanksgiving and Dedication Service was held in the Puerto Princesa Church after the Morning Worship Service on March 2. The Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr., officiated, reading Scripture from Psalm 100:4–5.

I thank the Lord for His blessings and for those who made this possible through the Board of Foreign Missions.

Pictured left to right: The Revs. Antonio Samones, Jr., Dario Basingil, Elmer Garcellano and Brother Celestino Peralta, lay hands on the new motorcycle for prayer and dedication.



Inactive Membership

Listed below are individuals and organizations whose memberships with the Church Finance Association have been inactive for a number of years and unless legal claim is made on these memberships they will revert to the general fund of the Church Finance Association on August 2, 1997.

If your name is listed below or if you are a member of any organizations named and you wish to make legal claim to these memberships, please file a claim with supporting documentation to the office of the Church Finance Association, Inc., located at 811 N. Lee Street in Ayden, NC on or before August 1, 1997.

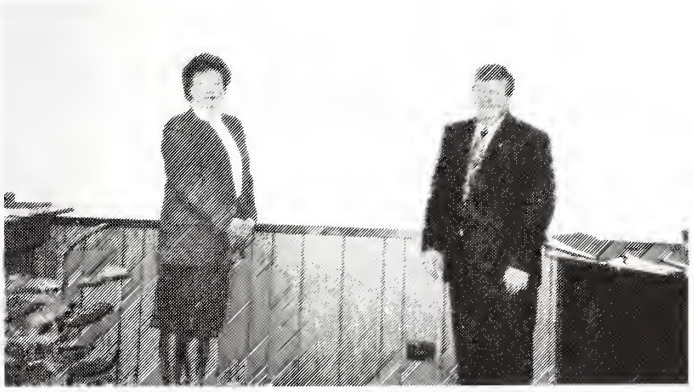
William Thigpen, Secretary

Bethel Church, Kinston	30.00
Cathedral FWB Church	400.00
Dawson's Grove FWB Auxiliary	50.00
First Western Sunday School Convention	47.97
First FWB Church, Wilmington	225.00
Swannanoa FWB Church	187.12
Third Western Union Meeting	25.00
Trinity FWB Church, New Hanover County	225.00
Union Grove, Durham County	25.00
Washington FWB Church	145.00
Victory First Deaf Church	17.00
White Oak Hill Sunday School	54.57
M. V. Avery	25.00
A. F. Ballance	25.00
Mrs. J. R. Bennett	25.00
Mrs. G. P. Best	25.00
Daniel Barrow	50.00
Mrs. H. J. Corbett	50.00
Mrs. W. M. Everton	25.00
Mrs. Jesse Ferrell	50.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Fleming	25.00
Jessie Gay	25.00
Rev. and Mrs. R. N. Hinnant	50.00
Rev. W. H. Lancaster	25.00
Rev. L. B. Manning	25.00
Rev. H. M. Minchew	31.28
J. L. Parker	25.00
Rev. Chester Pelt	25.00
N. C. Rice	25.00
Mrs. R. W. Smith	25.00
Hardy Talton	25.00
Lee Thomas	37.00
S. J. Tripp	25.00
T. L. Tyndall	25.00
Rev. Lloyd Vernon	25.00
George Webster	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Weatherington	75.00
Rev. J. H. Worley	25.00
Rosa Worley	25.00

Silver Creek Catches the Vision

by Mary M. Dudley, Executive Director
Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board

Silver Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church was organized from a mission in April 1996, and on Sunday, March 2, 1997, I arrived about 9:30 AM. I was greeted by the pastor, the Rev. Terry Ellis and his wife Sandy, who were filled with excitement. Soon the members of the church began to arrive and the sounds of laughter and greetings were mixed with a question: "How many do you think we will have today?" Soon the people, the young and the young in heart, gathered inside the building. We all looked around as we sang praises to God and realized a long-awaited dream was being fulfilled.



The Rev. Terry Ellis and his wife Sandy

Forty-nine people were present for the organization of Silver Creek's Sunday School. I witnessed Christianity in action. The folks had prayed, planned and worked for a successful beginning. The Sunday School Board had provided initial training and support and the people had studied and prepared for the beginning of the Sunday School and now it was a reality.

The Lord continues to bless this congregation as it grows in grace and number. If you travel to the beach near Emerald Isle this summer, you are encouraged to attend Sunday school and worship at Silver Creek.



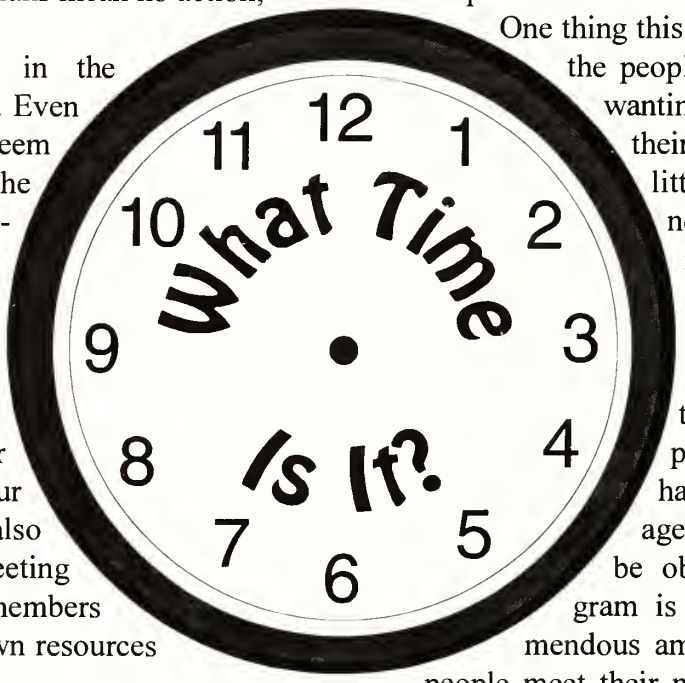
The congregation at Silver Creek

Retirement Ministries

There are many common expressions concerning time, its availability, its passage or measurement. Life, itself, is a measurement of time with which we are all concerned. One of the lessons people must learn is that time is limited. We have only a few years and an obligation to our God to live in a responsible manner. One of the obligations we have is to our parents and the other seniors in our community of faith.

Many people have lived in such a manner that their lives demonstrated no sense of responsibility and the plans they have made for their retirement and death continue the same lack of forethought. These persons should be reminded that no plans mean no action, no action means no results.

A significant problem in the church of today is no results. Even more frightening is that we seem to be little concerned about the lack of results. It is the mission of Retirement Homes Ministry to be concerned about our retired and soon to retire people. Therefore, we must inform our retirement community of their need for preparation. But, this is not our only concern. We must also concern ourselves with meeting the needs of some of our members who need more than their own resources will allow them to have.



Currently, we have three persons in our resident program. In addition, we are aware of four more Original Free Will Baptists who need to be in our resident care program, or at least need some supplementary assistance. At this time, we can offer them neither. We do not have the financial resources to take more people into the program as residents and we do not have a proper program for providing supplementary assistance. We are looking at the possibilities of expanding our scope, but so far, we have resources only sufficient for information programs and workshops. Information through a list of resource agencies and preparatory workshops is important, but not enough.

It has come to the attention of this writer that some people think our people should have made enough preparation to take care of themselves or their children should look after them. This may be true, but the facts are that many have done the best that they can and many children are helping all they can. It is also true, that some children are not going to help, which while it is despicable, does not mean that our older citizens should be abandoned. Original Free Will Baptists cannot take care of all the people in the world who need help, is another excuse. It does not excuse us from our responsibility to take care of our own and to help others as much as we can.

One thing this writer finds ironic is some of the people who are most vocal about wanting people to make plans for their own care, have often made little or no preparation for their needs. Whether or not, other individuals are doing their job is no excuse for the rest of us not doing all that we can.

A vital service that Retirement Homes Ministry can provide is information. We have a good list of available agencies where information can be obtained. Our workshop program is also able to provide a tremendous amount of information to help people meet their needs as they face retirement and to assist our elders with their retirement. Please call and invite us to present a workshop in your area.

Another concern is that most of our people simply are not aware of the services that we can offer as well as the needs that we are challenged to meet. We really would like for our Executive Director to visit your church and share with you both the services and the needs that are part and parcel of Retirement Homes Ministry.

Contact: Retirement Homes Ministry
PO Box 39,
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Telephone (919) 746-4963

GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING MATERIAL FOR PRINTING

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

According to the 1983 charter, the FWB Press Foundation exists for the following purpose:
"The purposes for which the corporation is organized are: to write, edit, print, publish and distribute any and all religious and educational literature for the Free Will Baptist denomination, including, but not limited to, Sunday school quarterlies, teachers' quarterlies, magazines, religious books, periodicals, newspapers, tracts, leaflets and posters of the denomination; church programs; schedules; minutes of the church, union, conference or convention meetings; hymnals; and other such religious and educational materials and miscellaneous printing as the Board of Directors shall deem desirable for use by the Free Will Baptist or other denomination." (*Restated Charter Articles of Incorporation of Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Incorporated,* Book 22, Page 535).

The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation operates as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage):* "All institutions, auxiliaries and enterprises, born because of a recognized need by the denomination and authorized by the parent body are to adhere to the denominational principles and to be servants of the denomination" (111-112). As such we are bound to uphold the principles established in the *Free Will Baptist Church Covenant* (31-32).

All materials submitted for printing should reflect the general principles given above. Materials in conflict with these principles will be returned to the client who originally submitted the material. Normally, clients may choose to edit the materials to reflect these principles and resubmit them to the Press for reconsideration. In cases where the basic philosophy expressed in the material is in direct conflict with the principles under which the Press operates, the Press may return materials and not consider any future revisions. All materials returned to clients will indicate which situation applies.

These guidelines apply to all material printed by the FWB Press, including but not limited to the following: Free Will Baptist literature and publications, book printing (fiction and nonfiction), advertising, programs, newsletters, and business forms.

The Editor, in consultation with the Executive Director and Board Chair, will make decisions as to whether submitted material is acceptable under the guidelines. Exceptions to these guidelines can be made only with the agreement of the Editor, the Executive Director, and the Board Chair on a case by case basis.

(Note: These guidelines have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation.)

To assist clients in determining whether material fits our principles, the Press has established the following specific guidelines:

1. All materials should reflect a Christian viewpoint. Materials which by their nature do not contain any religious reference (advertising, business forms, etc.) should not express any philosophy in conflict with a conservative Christian view. Materials should not condone any religious views which conflict directly with *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage).*

2. All materials should avoid questionable or suggestive language.

3. All materials should avoid "all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs" (*Articles of Faith* 31). In cases in which alcohol and/or drugs are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable.

4. All materials should avoid the approval of any questionable sexual relationship. In cases in which any sexual activity or relationship outside of marriage is mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable. Materials should avoid any overly suggestive or descriptive portrayals of sexual tension and/or activity even within the marriage relationship.

5. All materials should avoid the approval of New Age philosophy, the occult (including witchcraft, fortune-telling, tarot cards, etc.). In cases in which such ideas are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such philosophies and behaviors are unacceptable.

The Surviving Minister's Fund

April 7, 1997
To: ALL MINISTERS AND WIVES
Re: THE SURVIVING MINISTER'S FUND

Please do not confuse this enrollment with the Minister's Widows Fund. Please send two separate checks.

The Surviving Minister's Fund was established to help ministers who have suffered the loss of their wives. This letter is to announce a new enrollment in this fund. Helen Barrow passed away the first of this year and her husband, the Rev. William Barrow received the proceeds of this fund which totaled $1,240.00

The Surviving Minister's Fund works the same as the Minister's Widows Fund but they are two separate programs. While we encourage you to use the same envelope to save postage, we ask that you send a separate check when you enroll in either fund. Every married minister and his wife are eligible to participate.

We try to space the enrollments out to avoid confusion, but sometimes this is not possible. Please take the time to enroll now. The last enrollment was a single enrollment for Roberta Vann, the wife of the Rev. Sexton Vann in March, 1996.

Thank you for your participation.
Sincerely,
Donald Fader

The Minister's Widows Fund

April 14, 1997
To: ALL MINISTERS
Re: THE MINISTER'S WIDOWS FUND

Please do not confuse this enrollment with the Surviving Minister's Fund. Please send two separate checks.

This letter is to announce a new enrollment in the Minister's Widows Fund. We have received word of the death of the Rev. Clifton Rice of Kinston, NC and his widow received $1,470.00 which represented the proceeds of the fund.

When a participating minister dies, then a new enrollment is begun. This will be a single enrollment and the total amount due will be $10.00. Full participation requires one year of uninterrupted enrollments by the participant prior to a claim.

Every married minister can and should be a part of this fund. It is not only a financial blessing to the recipient, but also the fund is a tangible way that you can help in a time of great need.

The last enrollment was a single enrollment for the Rev. C. L. Patrick in January 1997.

Thank you for your participation.
Sincerely,
Donald Fader

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DENOMINATION



A Tribute to Alton Gerome Joyner

by the Rev. Dewey C. Boling

Alton Gerome Joyner was born September 27, 1935 to Luther and Clara Joyner. Alton was married to Ruth Polland on September 8, 1956. On July 15, 1960 a daughter Phyllis was born, who married Wesley Jeffries. They have a daughter named Tiffany Nichole, who is seventeen years old.

In February 1993, I met the Joyner family and in March of 1993, I became their pastor while serving Barnes Hill Free Will Baptist Church. Soon after I became their pastor, while enjoying lunch in their home, I learned Alton and Ruth were saved February 11, 1976, and became members of Barnes Hill Church. It didn't take long to realize that this was a very fine dedicated family, with Alton as deacon and a member of the choir, usher, grounds, and maintenance committee, and Ruth singing alto in the choir and Ladies Trio. Their daughter Phyllis is a Sunday school teacher. She and her husband Wesley are very dedicated to Barnes Hill Church, along with their daughter Tiffany. You could always count on Brother Alton to be in every service, along with his family.

As a minister for 45 years, I soon learned that Brother Alton was an outstanding man of God. He always had a smile on his face and enjoyed witnessing to his fellow workers on his job and in the community, telling them how wonderful it was to be a Christian.

Alton was always willing to go with me to the hospital to talk to some one about Jesus. As a pastor you meet a lot of good dedicated men, and Brother Alton was among the best and enjoyed working for the Lord.

Brother Alton was struck with a rare disease and on October 23, 1996, the Lord called him home to be with Him. His son-in-law, Wesley, was asked to fill out Alton's unexpired term on the Deacon Board. Brother Alton has been a great loss to Barnes Hill Church, but his family and our church have a great consolation knowing that he is enjoying Heaven and that soon we all can enjoy being with him again.
(This news item is reprinted in this issue of "The Free Will Baptist" because of errors in the April issue.)

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DENOMINATION

The Reverend Allen B. Bryan Returning to Bladenboro Church after Fifty-Three Years of Ministerial Activity



The Rev. Allen B. Bryan of Wayne County, NC, son of the late Henry H. Bryan and Georgia Dove Bryan of Route 2, Bladenboro, NC has spend fifty-three years in the Christian Ministry among Original Free Will Baptists. In his teenage years he attended church frequently at Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, White Oak OFWB, Sandy Grove Baptist, and other denominational churches in his community.

On October 15, 1944, the Bladen County citizen was licensed to preach the Christian gospel by the Oak Grove Church. On Sunday night November 12, 1944 the neighborhood young man, not married many years, preached his first sermon at the White Oak Original Free Will Baptist Church to practically a full house. From this beginning, the Bladen County native has served churches, and has been active in Christian ministry.

The Rev. Bryan will return and deliver the 11:00 AM sermon at the White Oak Church, Bladenboro. He also will deliver the evening sermon at 7:30 PM. The Rev. Bryan says he will use the same Scripture portion at the morning services he used fifty-three years ago.

The Bladen County native is well known among Original Free Will Baptists. He has been one of the leading ministers more than forty years. Bryan is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tenn., and has further prepared himself for his life's calling in other colleges and in special studies.

The visiting minister has held pastorates in Tenn., Durham, Rocky Mount, Kinston, Mount Olive; and in Counties, Beaufort, Sampson, Johnston, Harnett, Greene, and others. The Bladen County native has been very active in Denominational activities, in missions work, and helping to establish new churches. Also, he has been very active in foreign missions support among denominational churches.

In recent years Bryan has spent thirteen years as pastor of Northeast Church in Mount Olive, NC where more than sixty young people of the local church have been influenced to attend Mount Olive College. Along the way he has served as hospital chaplain in several hospitals. He has worked in Civitan, Ruritan, and other community organizations. He has traveled with tours on occasion to the Holy Land. You name it, this minister has served. To get close to the minister in conversation you will hear him speak of something like more than 1500 people being taken into church commitment and membership. Also, Byran says, "More than three and one-half million dollars of church property has been built, bought, or paid for as we have tried to lead people in Christian work. To God be the Glory."

The Wayne County minister continues to be an active pastor, but is semi-retired, willing and ready to share the benefits of Christian Life. He is on the move.

The Rev. and Mrs. Byran (Louise) live in their home at present. Most of the churches he has served has furnished a parsonage; however the Wayne County minister has planned sparingly and now has a home to live in.

Relatives, friends, acquaintances and the public are invited to share the special service at the Bladenboro church on May 18, 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM.

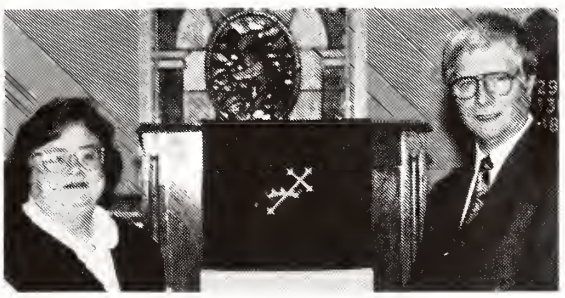
Pulpit Bible and Cloths Presented to Yelverton Grove FWB Church

A Pulpit Bible was presented to Yelverton Grove Free Will Baptist Church recently in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wood. The dedication was made by their daughter, Tami Wood, son and daughter-in-law, Woody and Kaye Wood, and their two grandchildren, Sarah and Zachary.

Charles and Dorothy are longtime members of Yelverton Grove Church. Their dedication and devotion to the church plays a great role in their family life and in the lives of the people in the church.

Charles is a former superintendent and is currently assistant superintendent. He taught Sunday school for many years. He is chairman of the Board of Deacons and is an active member of the Cemetery Committee. He has freely given many good years in serving the Lord for his church. Dorothy has taught Sunday school and is a member of the Woman's Auxiliary. She has been active in the YFA and has either directed or assisted with the church Christmas program for several years. Both of them are members of the church choir.

Tami Wood made the presentation of the Bible to the church and stated that she and her brother greatly appreciate their parent's having brought them up in the church and for having served the Lord for many years.



Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wood

After the presentation of the Bible, Claudette Lane presented the church with a beautiful set of pulpit and Communion table and Bible marker cloths. These were given in honor of Hubert Lane, her husband of 37 years, and two very special friends, Carletta Jones and Christine Gardner. Claudette stated that each of these three persons have played a very important role in her Christian life and the church is an anchor in her walk with Christ.

People & Events

1997 Spring Convention of the Eastern District of Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting at Folkstone Free Will Baptist Church

Written by Eleanor Baker, Delegate • Westside FWB Church, Kinston

On Saturday, March 15, the 1997 Spring Convention of the Eastern District Ladies' Auxiliary met at Folkstone Free Will Baptist Church.

It was a beautiful, bright, sunshiny day. A delightful program was enjoyed by all the 132 who attended. There were twelve ministers in attendance. We went expecting a blessing, and surely received one!

In an attempt to see if the meeting would be better attended, the meeting was changed to Saturday, on a trial basis, for this year.

It was brought to our attention that some were absent because of the funeral of the Reverend Clifton Rice, on the same day, at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, NC.

The theme for the Spring Convention was "The Power of a Good Example" "...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

There were reports from each one of the Denominational Ministries. Scott Sowers reported that a Billy Graham Crusade is in the planning stages, to be held in Greenville in April, 1998.

Smith's New Home Auxiliary was the only one in attendance with an A–1 status.

A Life Membership Award was presented to Audrey Quinn of Wintergreen Church, Cove City.

The speaker for the day was Carol Prescott, a member of Rock of Zion Church. Her topic was on the theme "The Power of a Good Example." It was most interesting, and challenging, ending with the phrase, "God hasn't changed. If He abides in our hearts, He will give us strength in all areas — to be a Good Example."

The Fall Convention will be held on Saturday, September 20, at First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston.

The new officers were elected and installed.

After the meeting a delicious meal was served in the Fellowship Hall.

Married 50 Years

Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church of Beulaville, NC, recently had the privilege of honoring their pastor and his wife in celebration on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Pastor Ralph and Janie Sumner celebrated with the many friends and family members that attended. These two are very special people who are loved and appreciated by many. It was a very special day and everyone enjoyed being a part of this memorable occasion. It was really hard to tell who had the most fun, the guests of honor or those attending.



Wilson First Free Will Baptist Church Observes Woman's Day

On February 23, 1997, the First FWB Church, Wilson, NC observed Woman's Day. The Woman's Auxiliary was in charge of all activities at the morning worship service. The members served as ushers and made up the choir for the day. Linda Davis, president, presided at the day's activities. The guest speaker for the morning worship was Dianne Riley of Mount Olive College.

Auxiliary Theme: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

The presentation of The Life Award Membership was the highlight of the Woman's Day Program. This year's recipient has shown that she has taken the promises of God's help and strength seriously by the way she lives her life. She gives sacrificially of herself through her love for God and her fellowman. She has proven that she receives her strength from Christ.

In her service to God, she is an example for everyone, for Christ lives in her life. Her years of service have shown that she is faithful, willing, and obedient to Jesus' call. She is a woman of great compassion, love, and devotion to her church and to her family.

She has been active in the Woman's Auxiliary for 32 years. She is currently serving as assistant treasurer of the auxiliary, an office she has held for ten years. She is active in her circle where she is presently serving as treasurer. She has also served as co-chairman, program/prayer chairman, and secretary.

She is active in Sunday school, where she has served as teacher, Bible school teacher, and is currently co-chairman of food for the bereavement committee.

She is married to Alton Dickerson. They have four daughters, Gail, Ellen, Cheryl, and Laura. She is a grandmother and great grandmother.

In love and appreciation, the Woman's Auxiliary presented the Life Award to Fannie Lee Dickerson.



Fannie Lee Dickerson receiving the Life Award

Roanoke Valley Church



The Roanoke Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church was organized October, 1993, as a Mission Church. On July 17, 1994, the Church was organized as an Original Free Will Baptist Church within the Western Conference. The Motto, "God Is Able," was adopted.

The Church has experienced many blessings from God. On April 10, 1996, the church purchased four acres of land in Roanoke Rapids. In one year, God blessed the Church in reducing the debt to only $3000.

In February, 1997, the Church was informed that a Company would donate a log cabin chapel, if the Church would finish paying off the land debt. On April 5, 1997, a barbecue chicken fund-raiser was held, with a profit of $900.00. The church feels especially blessed in this endeavor since we live in a time when God's work is sometimes put on the back burner and forgotten.

The members state:

"Please remember our church and church family in your prayers as we press toward the goal of building God's house and the only Original Free Will Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids. Any donations toward helping our building fund would be greatly appreciated. (Any donations may be sent to: Roanoke Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church, PO Box 2112, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870).

Bethlehem Youth News

Submitted by Billie Ard

Congratulations to the Youth at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church, Chinquapin, NC who participated in this year's Eastern District Youth Convention. The Convention took place at Juniper Chapel FWB Church in Vanceboro, March 8, 1997. Bethlehem's Cherub Choir placed 2nd in Group Talent Competition. Victoria Melton placed 3rd in Cherub Arts & Crafts, and several more had an honorable mention in Cherub Arts & Crafts. Bethlehem's AFC Choir placed 1st in Group Talent Competition. Candice Strickland placed 1st in AFC Individual Talent Competition, and Danielle Strickland placed 1st in AFC Arts & Crafts. We are very proud of our youth and we pray for them as they continue to use their talents for the Lord! (Since the Convention took place, we have lost one of our cherub youth, Candice Craft to a tragic accident by vehicle. She was the daughter of Stanley & Rosa Craft. Please be in prayer for this family, and others who were involved in the accident.)



Victoria Melton – 3rd place Cherub Arts & Crafts



Candice Strickland – 1st place AFC Individual Talent



Honorable Mention in Cherub Arts & Crafts



Danielle Strickland – 1st place AFC Arts & Crafts



2nd place Cherub Group Talent Competition



1st place AFC Group Talent Competition

Grant's Chapel to Observe 100th Anniversary

Grant's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, near Seven Springs, NC will celebrate its 100th Anniversary, Sunday, June 8, 1997.

All former members, pastors, evangelists, or anyone who has worshipped and attended Grant's Chapel is cordially invited to attend.

The Anniversary services and activities include:

Sunday school, 10:00 AM
Morning worship, 11:00 AM
Lunch, 12:30 — 1:30
Singspiration following lunch.

The pastor is the Rev. Bruce Barrow, of Snow Hill, NC. The clerk is Mrs. Virginia Flora. The pastor and membership urges everyone "to come join us as we celebrate."

People & Events

Exciting Ministry At Haymount Free Will Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC

Excitement is in the air at Haymount Free Will Baptist Church in Fayetteville. There is a look of jubilance on every face. What's all the excitement about? God is moving, not only among the hearing members of the congregation, but also, and maybe especially, among the deaf members. There are currently about 21 deaf members at Haymount and the number is increasing almost weekly.

Recently a weekend deaf revival was held featuring Kevin and Deborah Clark, who are both legally deaf. Kevin is an assistant pastor at an all deaf church of about 80 members in Morganton, NC. The revival was an overwhelming success, both in the number of people that attended and in the spiritual fruit that resulted.

The church has been blessed with a devout lady, Mary Rudd, as interpreter to the deaf. Although Mary is hearing, her parents were both deaf. She does an excellent job of interpreting what is said. Recently, Mary started a weekly class for the hearing members on how to use sign language. The impressive numbers that are attending each week indicates the genuine love the church has for the deaf and how great the desire is to communicate with them.

There have been 12 professions of faith already this year and of those 7 have been deaf. Renovations are already in progress to handle the increasing number and future plans are to start a separate service expressly for the deaf. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!



Some of the deaf participating in the Christmas program.



Sign language class for hearing members.



Pastor Dean Kennedy is baptizing six of the deaf.



Deaf congregation attending deaf revival.

God Is Blessing at Wildwood

Sunday, March 16, was a great day at Wildwood Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton, NC. What an exciting time we had! We reached record attendance in Sunday school, and had three people join our church during the morning worship service. Then that night during a baptismal service, the Spirit of the Lord poured down on us. We were already excited about the morning service and about having nine people to baptize. But something else happened while we were baptizing — a man walked up to the window of the baptismal pool and asked to be saved right then and there, then his wife came forward and also received the Lord as her personal Saviour. If that wasn't enough to make you overflow, five young people came down the aisle, all wanting to accept Jesus. A total of seven (7) people were saved during a baptismal service. We had revival that night. God is really working in our Church and we feel very blessed.

On October 3, 1995, our church voted to become a member of the Western Conference, and on October 12, 1995, many of our people went to Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, where we became a member of the Western Conference. Since that time, God has blessed us, and our Pastor Eddie Franks, with our one hundred (100) new members.

We thank God for leading our church into the Western Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist.

Cape Fear District Youth Rally

The Cape Fear District youth rally was held at Saint Mary's Grove Church, March 1, 1997.

First Place winners of Arts & Crafts were as follows:

Cherubs:
- Woodworking — Anna Faircloth
- Needlework/Wearable Art — Zachary Tart
- Painting/Drawing/Photography — Ricky Whitman
- Other — Michael Tart

AFC's:
- Woodworking — Armatha Notes
- Needlework/Wearable Art — Holly Hooten
- Painting/Drawing/Photography — Dawn Faircloth
- Sculpture — LaRayne McLamb
- Other — Leslie Williamson

YFA's
- Woodworking — Jill Hooten
- Needlework/Wearable Art — Amanda Bass
- Painting/Drawing/Photography — Brian Bass
- Ceramics/Pottery — Will Faircloth
- Other — Brian Stancil

First place winner in Christian writing was Carla Allen — YFA.

First place winner in Public Speaking was Brain Lewis — YFA.

First place in Lesson Presentation was Dawn Faircloth — AFC and Brian Stancil — YFA.

A Youth Rally was not held in April, due to the Spring Stretch.

FYI

People & Events



Harold's Honda "Keeps On Rolling"

It may be that a mileage milestone has been established by the Reverend Harold Jones, Director-Treasurer of Foreign Missions. On March 24, 1997, his 1981 Honda Civic Wagon, rolled up 400,000 miles, as depicted by Artist Jerry Goff, Graphic Artist at the Free Will Baptist Press. Although the motor was rebuilt at 350,000 miles, there are no complaints in the Honda's durability. Brother Harold states: "I'm now going for 500,000.

Practically all of the miles have been in promoting the work of Foreign Missions. Most assuredly, there's no other Free Will Baptist owned vehicle that has made as many trips to the Convention and to our churches than "Harold's Honda."

A REMINDER

materials for publication in "The Free Will Baptist" MUST BE in the Editor's office by the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication. Thanks for your cooperation!

C. H. Overman

The Beauty of the Cross



The beauty of the old rugged cross was demonstrated during the Pre-Easter service conducted by the Woman's Auxiliary of Sidney Free Will Baptist Church, Belhaven, NC..

Mary Lee Phelps, program director of the Auxiliary, presented a thought-inspiring program centered around the crucifixion and cross of Jesus Christ. Though the cross symbolizes the horror and humiliation suffered by our Lord, it also provides believers the reassurances that our sins are forgiven. To demonstrate the beauty of the cross, the congregation concluded the service by placing flowers on and around a replica of the old rugged cross.

Rock of Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church Welcomes New Pastor

The Reverend Richard A. Glosson has assumed his duties as pastor of Rock of Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Grantsboro, NC.

The Reverend Glosson, his wife, Jodie, and their daughter, Lindsey, come to Rock of Zion from Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro.

Ordained in the Western Conference November 10, 1996, he attended Mount Olive College, Carolina Bible Institute and the Billy Graham School of Evangelism.

A reception was held on Sunday, March 2, for the Reverend and Mrs. Glosson to officially welcome them to Rock of Zion.

AFC Conference at Cragmont Registration Form

AFC Conference at Cragmont will be held June 30–July 5. The cost of the week will be $185.00. Make your plans now to attend the AFC Conference at Cragmont.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone# _____ **Age** _____

Church _____

Please mail this registration form along with a $85.00 deposit to:

AFC Conference
c/o Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by
Pee Dee District
Woman's Auxiliary Convention
White Oak OFWB Church, Bladenboro
May 8, 1997
Theme: "To Be Holy"

Scripture: Colossians 3:12

9:15 Registration
Music Medley

9:45 Call to Order

Hymn

Devotion — Teresa Ball
State Study Course Chairman

Prayer for Convention — Ruth Warrick
Corresponding Secretary

Welcome — Edith McPherson
President, Pee Dee

Response — Martha Parsons
State Youth Chairman

Announcements — Peggy Carden
Pee Dee District

President's Address — Carolyn Jernigan
Business Session
Convention Offering

Life Membership Award — Committee
Special Music — State Officers

Memorial Service — Rose Williams
Chairman, Literature Committee

Hymn

Worship Service — Jean Ackiss
Field Secretary

Hymn

Recognition of Ministry Representatives
Joan Little, Vice President

Miscellaneous Business
Report of Committees

12:30 Benediction and Blessing — Clara Patrick
Benevolence Chairman

Pianist
Nina Grace Register, Devotion Compiling Editor

Special Music
Dianne Riley, Director; Deborah King;
Nadine Crocker; Sandra Jones; & Jean Ackiss

Program Prayer Chairman
Happy Taylor

In Memory of Rhuben A. Bishop



Rhuben A. Bishop

On December 21 and 22, 1996, the choir of Snow Hill Free Will Baptist Church under the direction of Gloria Wallace Edwards presented the cantata "Meet Him at the Manger" by Dave Clark and Russell Mauldin. The cantata was dedicated to the memory of Rhuben A. Bishop who died on December 3, 1996, at his home.

Rhuben had been a faithful member of Snow Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Route 2, Mount Olive for many years. He attended denominational meetings throughout the state representing his church. Rhuben served his church as deacon, Sunday School Superintendent and as Building Fund Chairman. His rich voice was a constant in the adult choir until his health began to fail.

Mr. Bishop is survived by his wife Mabel Hudson Bishop and daughter Gwendolyn Bishop of Mount Olive, one sister, Mamie Swindell of Kinston, two grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Rhuben's stature, laugh, voice, and example will be missed for years to come by those of Snow Hill Church. His dedication to God and the Free Will Baptist Church has been an inspiration to all.



Snow Hill Free Will Baptist Church Adult Choir's performance of "Meet Him at the Manger" is dedicated to the memory of Rhuben Bishop.



Children of Snow Hill Free Will Baptist Church sing as a part of the Hanging of the Greens service on December 1, 1996.

The Eastern Conference
of Original Free Will Baptist
Presents Its First Annual

Family Enrichment Series

May 18–21, 1997 — 7:30 Nightly
Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church
Corner of Broad & Fleet Streets
Located between Tryon Palace & Days Inn
Downtown New Bern, NC
Featuring the
Music and Ministry of "Covenant"

SUNDAY EVENING
Speaker
Rev. Bryant Hines
Pastor of Core Creek
Music by Covenant
and the Church Choirs from:
St. Mary's
Holly Springs
Rock of Zion

MONDAY EVENING
Speaker
Rev. Craig Simmons
Pastor of St. Mary's
Music by Covenant
and the Church Choirs from:
Antioch and Westside

TUESDAY EVENING
"Youth Explosion"
Rev. Brian Davis
Associate Pastor & Director of
Youth Ministries of St. Mary's
Music by Covenant
and the Youth Choirs from:
Saints Delight and Sandy Plain

WEDNESDAY EVENING
A Message from the Moderator of the
Eastern Conference,
Rev. Chris Singleton
Pastor of Beulaville Church
and the Music Ministry of Covenant

Nursery Provided Each Evening
Ushers, Greeters and Parking Provided
It's Time To Rediscover Our Family Values!
Eastern Conference Churches are encouraged to cancel their Sunday evening and Wednesday services for the time of worship, celebration and enrichment!
For more information please contact your church Pastor, Ladies Auxiliary or the Reverend Chris Singleton at 910–298–3520

PASTOR NEEDED

Edwards Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, NC, is seeking a bivocational pastor.
Any minister that is interested may contact:
Rodney Cahoon
1450 S. River Road, Beaufort, NC 28516
or call 919–728–3018.

YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE
YFA WEEK
CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY
JUNE 23–28

For those ages 13 and up
There will be:
1. Lots of young people!
2. Counselors who care.
3. Bible studies, dorm devotions, vespers.
4. Trips, fun times, "happening" events, and lots of excitement.
5. Music, new friends, and more than we have room to describe!

YFAers will soon be traveling to Cragmont Assembly to attend the 1997 Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. YFA Week is unique because it is the only encampment at Cragmont planned for just teenagers. This encampment is a time of fun and fellowship, a time of soul-searching and inspiration. This year's encampment is June 23–28.

The 1997 theme focuses on Getting the Word Out! Our program will feature concentrated Bible Study and an emphasis on discipleship, recreation, missions/evangelism, and much more. The week will be a friendship/discipleship event, with the purpose of beginning or continuing the process of discipleship development in the lives of youth.

To make sure that you are among those who attend YFA Week, please mail the application below soon! Send the application with a $95 registration fee. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your registration fee is received. The total cost of camp is $195. Checks should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week.

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Birthdate _____

Send registration form and fee to: Scott and Janie Sowers, Box 639, Bell Arthur, NC 27811, (919) 321–7542.

Teaching Bible Truths to Young Children

Guiding children in their early years is an awesome task. Helping children learn basic Scriptural truth is extremely important. God offers us the instruction of the Holy Spirit and the promise of His guidance: "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all" (James 1:5).

With this assurance of guidance, how does one go about teaching children of God's love? How do we communicate Bible truth in terms a child can understand?

Learning By Doing

It is not enough for the young child to hear God's Word or even to memorize it. The child must *do* it. Hands-on activity is the young child's most effective way to learn. The child must use all of his or her senses in order to learn effectively. We must help the child learn Bible truths through active play experiences.

Bible Stories

We tell Bible stories to teach Bible verses, for in them we learn timeless truths about God and His Son. The portions of God's Word we share with children deal with basic human needs which are the same for all persons, regardless of age, geographic location, or cultural setting.

Bible truths impact the mind, feelings, and behavior of children when the situations of the Bible characters are similar to situations they have already encountered in their own world. A story must be interesting and stimulating in order for a child to identify with it.

- Hold the Bible in you hand or lap as you tell the Bible story.
- State clearly that the stories in the Bible are true.
- Introduce the story by talking about familiar experiences which are similar to the events in the story.
- Show visuals of Bible story people and places. Pictures and models help make things clearer in their minds.
- Discuss the story the children have just heard. Ask simple questions. Open-ended questions or "What do you think?" questions help the children feel safe in answering since there are no right or wrong answers.

Bible Memorization

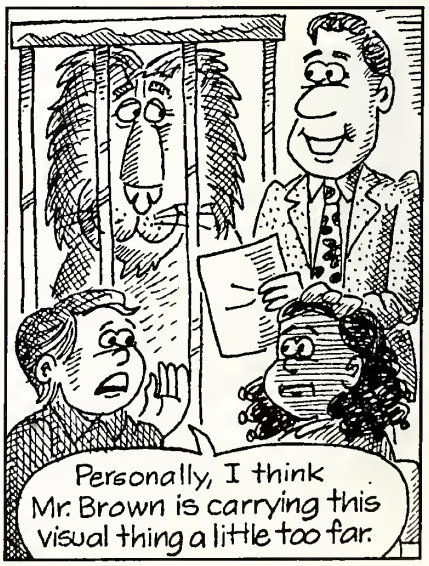
Discovering truths from God's Word can be an exciting and rewarding experience for all children in your class. Be sensitive to the learning level and style of each child. Each is an individual and has a different capacity to memorize and recall. Here are some ideas for helping children understand and memorize God's Word.

- Use the memory verse as often as possible in natural conversation and discussion.
- Ask questions to check a child's understanding of a specific Bible passage. For example, "How would you say this Bible verse in your own words?"
- Occasionally share situations in which knowing God's Word has helped you. Repeat a specific verse that has special significance to you.
- Use a variety of methods, such as games, worksheets, songs, and art to encourage understanding and practical application of each verse.
- Rather than individual memorization contests, challenge your students to work together to achieve a class goal. For example, explain that when 30 verses have been memorized by the class, a special treat will be provided. Provide a visual reminder of the goal and a means for children to record their progress. For example, color in a square on a chart, add a marble to a jar or attach a sticker to a chart to show each point earned.

How does one go about teaching children of God's love? How do we communicate Bible truth in terms a child can understand?

Attitude And Commitment

Teaching methods are only effective when the love of the teacher shines through. Do you realize how much Jesus loves children? Do you want to share God's love with them to help them make a good beginning? Help for changing attitude and creating commitment can come only through earnest prayer. Your vision of what God is doing through you can recharge your enthusiasm and change your attitude. Ask God to give you that vision! (From *Sunday School Smart Pages*. Used by permission.)



Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED

The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, has appointed the Nominating and Resolutions Committees for the 1997 Convention. Appointed to the Nominating Committee were the Revs. Harold Swinson, Albemarle; Fred Baker, Cape Fear; Harry Grubbs, Central; Jeff Daughtry, Eastern (chairman); Bobby Carden, Pee Dee; David Atkins, Piedmont; and Jacky Raper, Western. The Resolutions Committee will be composed of the Revs. Robert May, Albemarle (chairman), Frank Harrison, Cape Fear; Walt Tyndall, Central; Bryant Hines, Eastern; Jackie Godwin, Pee Dee; Carlee Stallard, Piedmont; and Dr. Billy Yawn, Western.

CONVENTION NOMINATION PROCEDURES

An announcement of vacancies to be filled at the 1997 Convention is being made to the boards and committees of the Convention, churches, ministers, and in *The Free Will Baptist*, inviting recommendations. Recommendations must include the name, church, occupation, and a single paragraph describing qualifications and/of gifts the person would bring to the board, committee, or office, and the name of the person or group making the recommendation. Recommendations will be received through July 1, 1997. The Nominating Committee will make its decisions, contact persons to be nominated, and prepare a written report for inclusion in the Convention Report Book. In the event the Nominating Committee decides to nominate someone not recommended by a board or director, the director will be consulted and the decision will be discussed.

Vacancies to be filled at the 1997 Session of the Convention are as follow:

Officers
- Secretary (1999)
- Treasurer (1999)

Executive Committee
- Albemarle Conference Representative (1999)
- Cape Fear Conference Representative (1999)
- Pee Dee Association Representative (1999)
- Piedmont Conference Representative (1999)

Children's Home Board
3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2001

Church Finance Association Representative
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1998

Cragmont Assembly Stock Representatives
2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2000

Foreign Missions
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2002

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation Representative
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1998

Home Missions
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2004

Minister's Program
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2002

Mount Olive College
5 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2003

Retirement Homes
2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2002

Board of Trustees
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2000

Chaplain's Commission
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2002

Commission of OFWB College Student Fellowships
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2000

Historical Commission
1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2000

Layman's League Board
4 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2000

Sunday School Board
3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2000

Recommendation Form

I (We) would like to recommend _____ for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill the vacancy: _____.

Church Membership: _____ (Conference) _____

Occupation: _____

Qualifications and/or gifts this person would bring to the position:

Person or group making this recommendation: _____ Date: _____

(Mail form to: Nominating Committee, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Forms should be postmarked no later than July 1, 1997.)

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

The Best Is Yet To Be

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Grow old along with me;
The best is yet to be —
The last of life for which the first was made,"
(Robert Browning)

Life is a series of progressive stages until we reach our senior years. First, we are infants, followed by childhood, then we become teenagers, after which we become young men and women. Soon we reach middle age and before we realize it, we have crossed that mystical line which makes us senior citizens.

Once we cross that line, we have reached the stage of life where we will spend the remainder of our time on earth: once a senior citizen, always a senior citizen. For an increasing number of people, this stage may represent one-third of life, even thirty years or even more. The challenge is to make these years the best years of our lives — indeed, to make them our golden years. Is there a secret or formula for doing so?

In a feature that can be read in five minutes, one should not promise too much, but as a senior citizen myself, I dare to share some thoughts with my fellow pilgrims.

"Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals," (Samuel Ullman).

The only way to continue living on this earth is to grow older, and as we pass the age of our normal life expectancy, we become increasingly grateful for the gift of each day. As our bodies age, however, they require more and more of our time for rest and sleep, for maintenance and repairs. Physical health is important, because we will live only as long as our bodies can sustain life.

Equally important, however, is the health of our minds. Alzheimer's is a disease which attacks the mind, just as cancer is a disease that attacks the body, and so far as we know, the onset of these diseases is beyond our control. Moreover, a person can be born with a mental as well as a physical handicap. On the other hand, most diseases of the mind, diseases like ignorance, prejudices, egotism, greed, depraved values and mental lethargy, are self-inflicted.

In recent years, when an increasing number of people are finding their employment to be in sedentary positions, the medical profession has been emphasizing the importance of physical exercises: walking, gymnastics and aerobics. While these activities have mental as well as physical value, they do not take the place of activities that are primarily intellectual, like reading, thinking, writing, lectures, good music and explorations of subjects which stretch our minds.

For good mental health, there is no substitute for mental exercise. Few things are more pathetic than people whose minds petrify years before their bodies die.

If the senior years are to be our golden years, we must give as much attention to our mental health as we do to our physical health. Let us remember: we do not grow old by merely living a number of years; we grow old by deserting our ideals.

Overcoming Life's Inevitable Difficulties

In our senior years, at the very time our bodies want to slow down, the pace quickens. Even in retirement, there are more things to do than ever, and it takes longer to do them. To prevent being overwhelmed, each of us has to learn the rhythm and chemistry of our body and accept the limitations it places on our time and energy. In so doing, we learn to distinguish between what is essential and what is not. Unless we plan carefully and establish our priorities, the routine of daily living can absorb us and leave us with no time for creativity and the pursuit of our ideals.

Also, in our senior years, we seek stability, only to find the values in our society in a state of flux and floating. We seek simplicity, but the changing conditions of modern life make our decisions increasingly complex.

Are the Golden Years an illusion? Not if we will live by a vision, a goal and a plan of our own rather than letting our lives be consumed by reacting to the actions and expectations of others. In confronting the inevitable difficulties of our senior years, we have the overwhelming advantage of decades of experience and the strength of a maturity that can come only from the crucible of life.

Indeed, I believe that spiritual maturity is the most important preparation we can make for our senior years. To arrive at the final stage in life without a knowledge of God and without sublime faith in Him is the greatest tragedy in human life. But life does not have to end this way: God has ordained that through our relationship with Him our senior years can indeed be transformed into golden years — "the last of life for which the first was made."

1997 (Vol. 2, No. 7) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Michael R. Pelt. *A History of Original Free Will Baptists.* Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 1996. $21.95.

Introduction

Original Free Will Baptist have a vigorous history as descendants of the General Baptists who settled in the northeastern part of North Carolina. The first charter of Carolina was issued and established religious freedom from "the liturgy and ceremonies of the Church of England" (20). Dr. Michael R. Pelt gives us a sweeping historical account of the General Baptists' heritage in Virginia and North Carolina in the seventeenth century to the organization of churches as early as 1727. By 1828, the name Original Free Will Baptists was adopted. This scholarly account gives us insightful documentation of the organization of the National Association and their separation from the OFWB, the development of denominational OFWB Convention programs, institutions and auxiliary organizations. All are viewed in the broader context of the history of American Christianity.

Background of Original Free Will Baptists

"Original Free Will Baptists are the spiritual descendants of the General Baptists who settled in North Carolina during the colonial period" (i). The English Reformation prepared the way for John Smyth's establishment of the English General Baptists who identified with the Separatist cause of breaking from the Church of England.

Periods of transition, revival, and doctrinal debates among Baptists led to divisions. Not until 1828 was the name of Free Will Baptists adopted (107), though the name at first was a term of reproach. The "Free Willers" were set "apart from all those who resisted the idea that the human will is in any sense free to choose Christ or reject him" (107). To be a "free willer" and choose Christ was an "anathema to the hyper-Calvinists" (107).

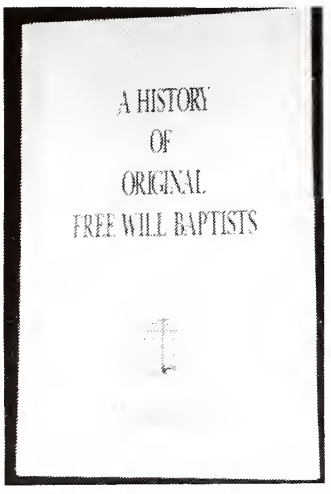
Three Historical Theological Views of Original Free Will Baptists

Three theological views stand out in the historical development of OFWB: (1) believers' baptism, (2) general atonement, and (3) washing the feet of the saints. Symth's study of the New Testament led him to "view that only those who had been baptized upon repentance toward God and faith in Christ were to be admitted to the church and that the baptism of infants is not sanctioned by the New Testament" (6). The General Baptists also believed that Christ's atonement was for all people rather than for a chosen few. Particular Baptists opposed general atonement.

The washing of the saints' feet has its historical heritage as a gospel ordinance, but the issue of feet washing as optional or as an ordinance of the church has historical roots.

Institutions and Auxiliary Organizations of OFWB

Dr. Pelt's historical overview is comprehensive and scholarly. His research carries us across many terrains from the beginning of Eureka College (227–241), the formation of the National Association (242–245), the acquisition of Cragmont (274–276), the conflict with the National Association (294–323), development of Foreign Missions (325–331), founding of Mount Olive College (331–336), establishment of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home (336–343), initiating the Retirement Homes Program (343–344), forming the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation (346–347), providing a Home Missions and Evangelism Program (349–350), and others.



Conclusion

Every OFWB will find Dr. Pelt's history informative, exciting, and clarifying. To know our roots, our beliefs, and our evolution is essential. Such a history will surely nourish us to become more kind, more courageous, and more loving.

A History of OFWB is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson, or from Dr. Michael Pelt, 322 Baker Chapel Church Rd., Mount Olive, NC 28365.

PASTOR AS LEADER

by Adrian Grubbs

Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership*. The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

It has been said in many ways: the pastor is a person who wears many hats, is a jack of all trades, a person of many talents, knowledgeable in all areas but expert in none, one who knows a little about everything and a lot about nothing.

The pastor is responsible for the entire ministry of the local church. He/she must oversee all the programs, committees, and functions of the church. He must have expertise in all areas of ministry. The pastor is preacher, evangelist, teacher, counselor, and "chairman of the board." He often has secretarial and custodial duties. A pastor must be involved in the community at large, often assuming leadership responsibilities. He is also connected to the Conference and the Convention, and from time to time he must serve in leadership roles.

The Epistle to the Ephesians offers some insight into the complex role of the pastor.

> But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ...And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:7, 11–13).

Several leadership roles are listed in this short text, but our concern here is with the role of *pastors and teachers* whose responsibility is *to equip the saints for the work of ministry.*

Behold! It is not the duty of the pastor to do all the work of ministry! The responsibility of the pastor is to shepherd the flock and teach them to do the work of ministry. So, ministers are not expected to be superhuman (some of us expect it of ourselves, and some of our parishioners expect it of us, but God does not expect us to fill a superhuman role!) This text puts the role of pastor-teacher into a manageable perspective. The pastor-teacher is not expected to do it all but to train and lead the congregation into doing *the work of ministry.*

When Jesus gave the Great Commission to the Church, He included three specific areas of responsibility: 1) make disciples of all people; 2) baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and 3) teach them "to observe all that I have told you." That is the duty of the Church, and the pastor is called to lead the Church in fulfilling its calling.

A pastor will find that at one time and place or another, one aspect of ministry will require more of his attention than another, yet he cannot allow one function to demand all his time and energy to the neglect and exclusion of the others. The pastor who concentrates so hard on winning converts that he fails to teach them discipleship, commits a fatal error. The minister who is concerned only with the number of people he baptizes, forgetting to make disciples and to teach them to observe all Christ's teaching, is not being the pastor God called him to be. One minister will be more adept in one phase of the Great Commission than another, but he must not neglect the others. A given church at a given time may have a greater need in one area of ministry, but the other area must not be overlooked.

I have discovered that I cannot be an expert in all the fields of my responsibility; I cannot be a proficient leader in every area of ministry for which I am responsible.

This came home to me recently as I was thinking about our youth program. Our youth program needs to be — it should be

and could be — much more than it is. I feel that my wife and I could take the teenagers in our church and lead them in building a good program, but neither of us is able to take on that responsibility right now because of other demands placed on us. But then, we do not have to; we have people in the church who could provide that leadership. The same is true of youth work on the district and state levels. The question, then, is how do we tap into that rich resource of leadership capabilities available in our church and in the denomination?

I must realize, first of all, that I am not the only one who can do the job that needs to be done; there are other people who are quite capable, and some of them could do the job better than I could do it. Secondly, I must accept the fact that I cannot do it all; I have only so much time and energy available to me, and because I am human I can not devote full attention to more than one major task at a time. In the third place, I must accept the fact that my primary calling is to recruit, enlist, train, challenge, and motivate the people of God to *do the work of ministry.* It would be easier to do it all myself, but the jobs would be half done because there are so many of them; my family would be neglected because of demands on my time, and the people would be deprived of their opportunity to serve God because I failed to teach them.

A fine lady in the church was known in all the community to be an excellent cook. She had three daughters and two sons who never learned to cook the simplest dish. She never had (or took) the time to teach them. She always said, "I'd rather do it myself." Another lady, whom I have known rather well, saw to it that all eight of her sons and daughters learned how to cook. She was able to get a lot more done by not trying to do it all herself.

Of all the duties of the pastor, the greatest one is *equip the saints for the work of ministry.* That involves preaching, leading in worship, visitation, teaching, counseling, and whatever it takes *to equip the saints.* The pastor is responsible for all the programs of the church, but he cannot personally direct each one. It is the pastor's responsibility to oversee the work and to coordinate all the facets of the church's mission. The pastor's calling is to recruit and train others also to do the work of ministry.

Biographical Information

Adrian Grubbs

Birth: February 14, 1944

Wife: Jo Ann

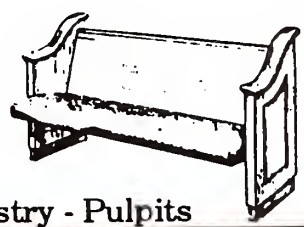
Children: Chris, Lynette, Jo Anna

Currently: Pastor Deep Run OFWB Church

Education: Mount Olive College, A.A.; NC Wesleyan B.A; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, M.Div.

Denominational Work: Pastored: Palmer Memorial, Piney Grove (Pitt Co.), Marsh Swamp & Deep Run Churches. Chaplain's Commission, Cragmont Board of Directors, Free Will Baptist Press Board of Directors, Examining Board of the Eastern Conference, and Moderator of the Eastern Conference.

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The Free Will Baptist

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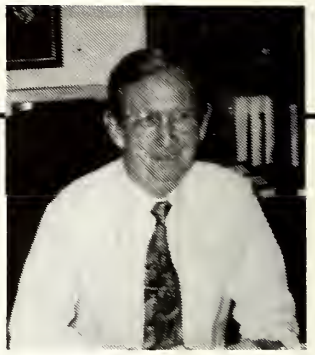
A Letter to Daddy

Spring Stretch 1997

The Ministerial Code of Ethics

These "Little Ones"

Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

"TOWARD SODOM"

There are times in everyone's life when decisions and choices have to be made. If those choices prove to be wrong, then we sooner or later face the consequences. Abraham and his nephew, Lot, were faced with a decision — a choice had to be made. The story is recorded in Genesis 13:1-14.

We certainly admire these two men for the way they solved their problem. We can only wonder how the story would have ended if Abram had chosen the fertile plain of Jordan and Lot had dwelt in Canaan. There is something important to note in Lot's choice, which Abram freely allowed him to make — he pitched his tent toward Sodom, a terribly wicked city. Abram, who later was renamed Abraham, had been called of God to leave his own country, to sojourn in strange lands, and to ultimately reach a land that God would show him. God gave him the promise: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). It is most conclusive that if Abram had chosen the plain of Jordan, he would not have pitched his tent toward Sodom. Also, if Lot had chosen Canaan he would not have faced the temptations of the big city and his story, and that of his family, would have been quite different.

Because of its wickedness, God's judgment was pronounced upon Sodom. It was Abraham who interceded to God in its behalf, asking God if He would spare the city if as many as fifty righteous souls could be found. God agreed, and finally agreed that He would not bring destruction if as many as ten righteous could be found; but such did not occur. The story of Sodom's destruction is recorded in Genesis, Chapter 19. Its wickedness is evidenced in this chapter, as Lot sought to protect the two angels from the Sodomites who "...called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them" (v. 5). Lot's efforts failed and when the crowd became more enraged, Lot was pulled back into his house and the angels struck the people with blindness. Lot, his wife and two daughters fled the city and "...the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven" (v. 24).

We would be inclined to dismiss this account of Sodom's destruction, as well as the evils of the city, if we did not believe the Bible to be God's message to humankind. We could also dismiss all references to Divine judgment, if we discounted the truth of Scripture, and if we did not believe it to be Divinely inspired. Beliefs in morality, spirituality, and the virtues of life are all presented and advocated in the Bible. It is our guide, our source of answers to the problems of life — this written Word of God. It tells the story of God's dealings with man, and how man failed when he turned from God. It tells us of God's ultimate design for our sinful state, when the "...Word, (Jesus Christ) was made flesh, and dwelt among us,..." (John 1:14). It is the Word that reminds us over and over again of the consequences of sin, both in examples and direct warnings.

When we chart our own course, when we have been deceived into believing that God's love excludes the penalties and consequences of disobeying God's Laws, when we flout His Word and Laws, when we as a society begin to think and believe that the abnormal is normal, then we can be properly classified with those referred to in Proverbs 12:15: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:..." It was Isaiah who wrote: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;..." (Isaiah 53:6).

For years we have noted the moral declension in our nation. We now openly read and hear confessions of immorality of the most base nature. There is no shame, and evidently no feelings of guilt, and certainly no regard for Christian principles and the Laws of God. It is a tragic day when great publicity is given to one who openly declares his/her perverted practices, when we laud someone for being "bold" and "brave" in the acknowledgment of immorality. Like Lot, our society has pitched its tents toward Sodom, moved into the city of wickedness, and gradually embraced the lie of Satan that because God loves us, we can become whatever we choose, we can do what we want to do, and everything will simply be OK.

We know that our God is a God of love; however, this does not mean that He loves our evil ways. He forgives the sinner because of His love, no matter the depth of human depravity, when we acknowledge and confess our sins and trust in Christ as our Saviour. Because we serve a God of love, we must love also; but just as God cannot and does not condone evil, neither can His people.

Jesus referred to Sodom in Matthew 10:15. It was a real city, a real place. God's judgment fell upon it, and Lot escaped because He obeyed the directions of the Lord to flee from the city.

We agree with Billy Graham as he spoke to North Carolina's General Assembly on May 5,1997: "...the fundamental crisis of our time is a crisis of spirit, and we're not addressing it in most places... We've confused liberty with license and we're paying the awful price. We're a society poised on the edge of self-destruction, unless God intervenes and stops us."

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

July is Christian Education Month

June is Cragmont Month

A Letter to Daddy — by The Rev. Richard Holmes

On February 16, 1997, as I talked to my pastor who had just felt the leading of the Lord to call me, my dad's respiratory therapist came to the phone and told me I needed to come. I rushed to my daddy's room and watched this special man end his journey on this earth and begin his everlasting journey with Jesus Christ, who two years ago had become his Saviour and Lord. Days, weeks, and even a few months have past since that day. Each day I have thought about my daddy and how important this man was to me. I have often thought if I had one more chance to talk to him, what would I say? I guess if I has a chance to say something to him again, it would have to be by letter because as emotional as I am I could not speak. So here is the letter I would write to Bill Dunn, my daddy.

Dear Daddy,

I know you are doing well. I just wanted to let you know that I have missed you. I have spent a lot of time thinking about you. I want to let you know that I am so proud that I can call you my daddy. I am so happy that you chose me to be your son. I know that you and Mom could have chosen not to get legal custody of me when I was eight. However, because of the special people that you both are, you chose to love a little eight-year-old abused, neglected, and malnourished child. You brought this child into your home, cared for him, and disciplined him (when he really needed it). But most of all, you loved and accepted him.

I guess if I had to chose one of the most memorable moments in my life with you, it would be that day in court. You and I were in the court waiting room on the final day of the custody battle. I asked you, "if you and Aunt Alice win me today, what do I call you? Do I still call you uncle Bill and aunt Alice, or can I call you Mom and Dad?" The answer that you gave me will always be remembered. You said, "Son, I am not going to try to take the place of your father, because even though he is in heaven you should always remember him. Your Aunt Alice is not going to try to take the place of your mother. But you must remember that Mom and Dad are not always who brings you into this world, but the ones who raise you to be an adult. If we win you, you may call us whatever makes you comfortable." That day I got a new Mommy and Daddy. That day I found acceptance that I would have for the rest of my life.



Daddy, I truly thank you for allowing me to be your son. I know that there were times I disappointed you, as most children do their parents. However, you still loved me and always greeted me at the door with a hug or said good-bye with a hug. When I go home now, I miss those hugs. You told me many times how proud you were of me when I played soccer, football, ran track, and never gave up, even though I wasn't the greatest athlete. When I chose Katina to be my wife, you told me how proud you were of my decision. You told me how proud you were when I graduated from college and when I accepted my call to the ministry. Many times you told me and others how proud of me you were. However, I was just following the example that my mommy and daddy had set for me.

All those times you told me how proud you were, I wonder if you knew I was even more proud to have you as my daddy. I was proud to have a man raise me who was honest and loving, a man whom I respected. As a teenager I probably questioned a lot of your choices in regard to me. However, as I grew to be an adult, I began to see that you knew what you were talking about. You were only trying to help me be a better person.

In these past two years, if it were possible, I became more proud of you. I cried with joy as I called you one night and you told me you had accepted Christ. I cried as I held you in my arms and tried to speak when I had the privilege of baptizing you at Silver Creek. All these tears were tears of joy and pride. I was proud that my daddy was walking with God.

Your life was always filled with great discipline and work. You always tried to give your best in everything you did. Your walk with Christ was no different. As you began to grow in Christ you always wanted to learn more. You wanted to learn how to lead people to Christ. So Terry and I gave you information, but more important, the Holy Spirit gave you power, and you began to witness everyday. I will never forget the phone calls when you told me you led a person to Christ. I was

once again proud to be your son. You had a burning desire in your heart to serve God, like all Christians should. Then you called me one day and said you had been voted in as a deacon. Once again I was proud. However, you weren't happy with just being chosen, you wanted to know what you must do. Once again I shared with you the Scripture that taught about being a deacon, and then I watched you continue to work at being a deacon whom God would be proud of. One night you even called after a layman's league meeting wanting to know if I could help you put together a devotion for a meeting. We never got to do that, but I know if we had, you would have done a wonderful job. I know you would have because everything that you have ever done, you always did with pride.

You took pride in all of your jobs, in keeping up your yard and cars. You took pride in raising five children, you took pride in being a good husband and providing for our family. Most important, after you accepted Christ, you took pride in serving Him at Silver Creek Free Will Baptist Church, and in the world. Daddy, I am proud of you, and I am proud to be one of your children. I may not have your blood, but I have your heart and your will. Katina says I even have some of your ways. I thank you for allowing me to be your son and teaching the many lessons that you taught. I hope that I can do as well with Dustin as you did with me, and as I told Katina as we pulled up at your funeral and saw all the people there, I only hope that I can be half the man that you were. If I can be, I will be doing alright.

I miss you, but I know you are much better off than I am. God has called you home to be with Him. One day I will join you. Until that glorious day I must work for Him as hard as you were doing. Daddy, thanks for loving me unconditionally and accepting me as your son. I will always love you and always remember the things that you taught me, as I had the privilege of growing up and calling you "Daddy."

Love,
Your Son
Richard Holmes

Note: Memorials in memory of Bill Dunn may be sent to Silver Creek Free Will Baptist Building Fund at PO Box 991, Swansboro, NC 28584. Please help the vision that Bill had of seeing the dream of a new church building come true.

Pleasant Grove Honors Alpheus Jones — by Tempie Jones



Alpheus Jones

On Sunday, March 2, 1997, Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist of Pikeville, NC, honored a very special person, Alpheus Jones, for faithful and dedicated service for the past 60 years. The pastor, the Rev. Jerry Stephenson, began the service by welcoming a packed sanctuary of family and friends. Following the welcome the choir sang Alpheus' favorite song "Pay Day." Worth Overman, Jr., Master or Ceremonies for the event, compared the honoree to a great artist who practiced the highest of art, "The Art of Living," by the example of his life that affects the quality of each day and the lives of those around him.

Annie Mae Howell paid tribute to Alpheus for giving his best to the Lord, his church, and his country. She expressed feelings shared by those who have watched, loved, and adored him for service he has joyfully given since 1938, the year he became an active member of the church. She mentioned that he was a part of many singing groups and still enjoys singing. He has directed the Adult Choir for many, many years. She wrote a special poem stating his many contributions. Her remarks were ended by giving him a big hug. Many of the following speakers concluded their remarks in this way.

The next person on the program was his brother, Rudolph Jones, from Pine Level. He complimented Alpheus for being such a special brother and friend. Everyone enjoyed a special song he chose for this occasion, "He Touched Me." Francis Barnes joined Rudolph in singing this tribute.

Rufus Hare, who has worked very closely with Brother Alpheus through the years in the church, expressed love and appreciation to Alpheus (and his wife of 57 years, Colleen) for all contributions to Pleasant Grove Church. Rufus referred to Micah 6:8 "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" to describe Alpheus as a friend and brother. He gave a list of outstanding services rendered by the honoree through the years in church and community service work:

- Served as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent — 14 years
- Served as Sunday School Superintendent — 13 years
- Served on the Deacon Board — 21 years
- Served on the Pikeville Town Board — 4 years
- Served as Pikeville Mayor — 2 years
- Served as a Boy Scout Leader
- Member of the Pikeville Junior Order
- Member of the Pikeville Masonic Lodge

Tempie Jones represented the Bryan Sunday school class in paying tribute to the honoree. Alpheus has been a faithful and loyal member of this class for over 50 years where his seat was always filled. He is a fun-loving person who enjoys participating in activities and keeps things lively. Alpheus is a very punctual person who believes in beginning

Pleasant Grove Honors Alpheus Jones Cont....

and ending on time. He wants class time used wisely. There is a special bond among members of this class. Through the years class members have gained strength from each other. Alpheus has been a wonderful strength-giver and team worker.

Through the years Alpheus has made tremendous contributions to the music department of the church. Becky Glover spoke on behalf of this department and had all piano and organ players, along with choir directors, to stand and be recognized. She recalled how helpful and inspiring he has been through music and the example of the life he has lived. They presented him a gift of wind chimes to remind him of the music department and their love for him.

Herman Croom told about coming to Pikeville years ago as a young agriculture teacher and living in the teacherage for two years. Then he met a friend, Alpheus Jones, who invited him to live in his home as a family member. While living there Alpheus became more than a friend, he became a "second daddy" to him.

A wonderful tribute was given by his daughter, Edith Ann Futrell, to both her parents. She cited things such as love, discipline, and a sturdy, content home life that instilled a strong faith that has helped her carry on and face obstacles in her family's lives.

Grandson Jerry Futrell sang a special song, "Keep Searching," for his grandfather, Alpheus.

Pastor Stephenson called attention to the renovation of the church choir loft. (At a later date a formal Choir Dedication Service will be held.) He presented a plaque which read "Choir Loft for God's Glory in Honor and Tribute to Alpheus Jones, Choir Director, by Past and Present Members of Pleasant Grove Choir, March 2, 1997." This plaque will be placed at a later date. The Rev. Stephenson also presented a certificate of appreciation from church members for Alpheus' devotion to God, love, leadership, and numerous contributions to Pleasant Grove. He expressed personal appreciation for knowing and serving with Alpheus.

This special service was culminated by Pastor Stephenson as he shared words recorded in Proverbs 3:1–4. He stated that Alpheus is a fulfillment of the prophecy given in this Scripture and this entitled him to be able to enter the next stage of life.

After the closing song "To God Be the Glory" and benediction, everyone was invited to enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship in the church fellowship hall.

Spring Stretch 1997

by Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator



Under the Big Tent

It was easy to sense and to experience the excitement of the day driving onto the campus of Mount Olive College on Saturday, April 5, 1997. The big red and white tent insisted that something unusual was afoot. Signs, tables, and people pointed the way to registration for the first ever Original Free Will Baptist Spring Stretch. Over 200 participants registered, fellowshipped, walked, attended workshops and seminars, ate, and worshipped together.

Every facet of the denomination was involved one way or another. Denominational ministries provided support, workshops and seminars, and prizes to make the day a success. The Layman's League prepared and served lunch for the entire crowd. The Woman's Auxiliary provided a workshop and lots of goodies for lunch and refreshment breaks. The day was planned by the Spring Stretch Committee as authorized by the Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The committee was composed of Philip Wood, chairman; Nancy Boykin, Kip Godwin, Angela Honeycutt, Stephen Prescott, Becky Jo Sumner, Clair Taylor, and Tracy McCoy.

Special activities and classes were enjoyed by children and young people throughout the day. Yogi and Scooby Doo characters were on hand from Kings Dominion to cheer the young people on and to remind them of our second annual family day (which will be held at Kings Dominion on August 17, 1997).



The walk is about to begin.

The walk was a great success. The sidewalks and streets around campus were filled with excited participants who were stretching their legs to raise over $6,500 for the work of the Convention. Laughter and smiles overcame the sweat and pain of trekking 5 kilometers (3.1 miles). Men and women, boys and girls, old and young, big and small — all were walking on purpose. The smaller children did laps on a shorter track to do their part. It was a beautiful site.

The energy used in the walk added to the eagerness of lunch. People lined up for their choice of hot dogs, hamburgers, or combination thereof. Some made one trip through the line, and



Above:
Marie Cutrell and Cathy Cahoon, sisters from Sound Side Church, participate in the walk.

others, well they kept coming back for more. The tent provided a cool place to rest and talk, or look over the prizes spread on the table. The grand prize for the adult, young person, and child that raised the most money would be held until just prior to the worship service. All the others were given away in random drawings. There was a lot of excitement as prizes were given out among all walkers that registered. Almost everyone that participated received some kind of prize.

The afternoon was filled with learning opportunities. Workshops and seminars on a variety of subjects were offered to pastors, youth leaders, adults, teens, and children. George Resor of the Columbia City Church of God, Indiana, shared with pastors information and practical help regarding stewardship in the local church. Donna Brandt, youth minister of the Columbia City Church of God, Indiana, led a two-session seminar for youth leaders. Denominational ministries and the Woman's Auxiliary filled the Henderson Building with options for adults. Angela Honeycutt, Cape Fear District youth leader, planned an afternoon of activities for the youth. The Rev. Frankie Baggett and Clair Taylor led activities for the children.



Above:
Pastor George Resor shares with pastors.

Just before the closing worship service, the remaining prizes were given away. Miss Bridgett Sawyer of Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church won a $100 savings bond for raising the most money of any child. Miss Clair Taylor raised the most money for any teenager and received a Sony Play Station. The Rev. Todd Sutton, the adult to raise the most money, won a pair of airline tickets to anywhere in the Continental US that American Airlines flies, compliments of ITG Travel.

Below:
Participants in the worship service.



The day ended with a worship celebration. Music, drama, Scripture, and prayer were all elements of the worship service. Part of the Spring Stretch Committee presented a brief skit and Dr. David Hines provided a challenging message. Everyone seemed excited and tired as they prepared to return home after having been stretched. Many people rallied, "Let's do it again next year!"

Prizes and support have been provided by the following businesses. Please be sure to show your support by visiting them and let them know that you appreciate their generosity. Adams Auto Wash, Greenville; B and G Distributors, Wilson; Baskin Robbins, Carolina East Mall, Greenville; BB&T, Ayden; BB&T, Whiteville; Blessings Book Store, Dunn; Bobby Johnson, Robert's Grove Church; Boyette's Texaco, Wilson; Campbell University, Buies Creek; Carlie C's IGA, Dunn; Carolina Benefit, Greenville; Centura, Ayden; Clayton Auto Parts, Clayton; Connie's Catering, Dunn; Country Squire, Kenansville; Cracker Barrel, Wilson; Cragmont, Black Mountain; East Carolina Bowl, Greenville; East Carolina University, Pirate Club, Greenville; Ellis Davis Mills, Deep Run; Farm Bureau, Michael Peyton Lee, Dunn; Firestone, Wilson; First Citizens Bank, Dunn; Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Ayden; Golden Corral, Greenville; Greenville Athletic Club, Greenville; Greenville Fun Park, Greenville; Home Missions and Evangelism, Ayden; K and W Restaurant, Greenville; Kenly Ford, Kenly; Kings Dominion, Richmond; La Mirage Stables, Farmville; Layman's League, Ayden; Mount Olive College Bookstore, Mount Olive; Mount Olive College, Mount Olive; Murphy Farms, Inc., Clinton; Murray House, Kenansville; NationsBank, Dunn; NC Department of Agriculture, Goodness Grows..., Raleigh; NC State Athletic Department, Raleigh; Parkers Restaurant, Greenville; Perkins, Greenville; Pizza Inn, Dunn; Pizza Inn, Greenville; Pizza Villa, Kinston; Pizzazz, Ahoskie; Putt Putt, Wilson; Retirement Homes, Ayden; Sasser Golf Carts, Goldsboro; Sherwin Williams, Clinton; Sims INS, Sims; Skylight Inn, Ayden; Southern Communications, Goldsboro; Strickland-Dail Dining, Farmville; Strother's Restaurant, Wilson; Tands Inc., Kinston; Taylored Wood, Harrellsville; The Creamery, Wilson; The Sawdust Shop, Deep Run, Three Steers Restaurant, Greenville; Triangle Bank, Dunn; United Carolina Bank, Whiteville; Wal-Mart, Whiteville; and Woman's Auxiliary Convention, Ayden.

The Ministerial Code of Ethics

— by the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow



Part One of Two

This message was preached at last year's Ministers' Conference at Cragmont Assembly

You know I feel something like I did a number of years ago when I was invited to go out of state, to engage in a revival service at a Christian Institute. There was a man with me who was asked to preach one night and for me to preach the next. He and I were being entertained in a home. We had a lot of opportunities to talk. So he preached this night and it was a good message. After the service that evening, he said, "Bruce." I said, "Yes?" He said, "I got things up mighty high tonight. If you're going to match me, you've got to get up above what you've been doing!" I said, "I can't make it. I just can't make it. You preach tomorrow night." He said, "Okay." So he preached, the next night. The deacons called both of us in and said, "You got mixed up. We meant for Val to preach one night and you one night." They said, "You got mixed up. What happened?" I said, "Ask him, I don't know yet."

Now I feel kind of like that, you know. Brother Pelt put it up on a high standard here. I told him I felt like the little Model T Ford that said, "I carry you, I bring you, I carry you, I bring you." And then our brother who sang — he's over there at the first church I served in North Carolina, and if he looks after his pastoral care like he sang, he's doing all right. I felt kind of like Brother Bill Anderson who told one of our young preachers, "Don't you mess up over there, Boy! Do, I 'm coming home!"

I have never been given an assignment that was more difficult, because I didn't know where I was to start, and I didn't know where I was to go, and the one who assigned me didn't tell me what to do. So that's a difficult thing. But he did tell me, "Speak about the Code of Ethics" or "Deal with the Code of Ethics," I don't know how he said it. And I don't know how I'm going to do it. In all of my endeavors I've had quite a bit to do with the Code of Ethics.

First Corinthians 3:9 states: "...we are laborers together with God:..." I've always tried to keep in mind as we worked, not only on this but on other things, to wit: God was in Christ Jesus, reconciling the world unto Himself and hath given unto us — you and me — to reconcile the world to Christ, and bring the world in harmony with Christ. And then I've always tried to keep in mind that we are living stones, growing and glowing for the Lord, or we should be.

Now, the Code of Ethics. Where did it start? And why did we think we needed it? I think that's maybe a good starting place.

The first I ever heard (I don't know that this is original), of something to give directions to the minister, a special direction and one that he subscribed himself to do, was back in 1928. I was just a mere lad in my mid-teens or younger. There was a preacher at a certain church and the Conference took his credentials. He said, "If there's anybody in that Conference, the Ordaining Council, or the Moderator, either one, who can take my credentials, let 'em come and try." He said, "I've got my brother and eight other helpers with me any time they want to tackle it." Now that's a reality. The matter ended up in court, but the court lost the records. But the judge told him, "You are not a Free Will Baptist preacher, never no more, unless you are re-established in the Free Will Baptist Church." That's the words the judge said and that was the end of the thing. He said, "Don't go back in another Free Will Baptist Church as a Free Will Baptist."

Those things came along, you know, and they went from one thing to another. I might mention a number of things, but there was an awareness that we needed something that the ministers subscribed to and something that they would live by, because we were that "peculiar people," that "peculiar stone" shaped for a very "peculiar work."

I went away to college and I came back. I wasn't back long before I was elected on the Ordaining Council of the Central Conference. We had a man, an ordained man, who hadn't been to a Conference in twenty years, hadn't preached in twenty-five years, and still wanted his credentials. Brother Dennis Alexander said, "Brother Barrow, I think you ought to go get 'em." I said, "I'll go." I went down to his place of business, and he pulled his glasses down, and said, "Young man, if you think you can take those credentials, you better think again." Well, I didn't go down for

trouble. I asked, "Well, are you going back to the Conference?" He said, "No, I haven't got time for the Conference. But, I've got to keep my credentials because I get a little discount from the railroad and from the bus when I take a trip."

Oh, how pathetic! I didn't want to jump on him and take them away, but I wanted to say, "Oh, Lord, search his heart." I wanted to say something that would bring him to an awareness that he was a minister of the manifold grace of God."

Later — I'm just hitting a few things, there was what was called a "spiritual meeting" in the town of Snow Hill. They were going to write up rules to govern the preachers. The two men who were the most outspoken in that meeting were both chain smokers. One said to the other, "Let's start at home and forbid all preachers from smoking." They discussed this back and forth, and nothing ever came of that meeting.

While I was on the Council, a man came and said, "I want to move from this church to you, but I want to keep my credentials because if you persecute me in one city, I want to flee to another."

So, that's some of the things that gave rise to why we should have a Code of Ethics. In regard to the Code of Ethics, the Rev. Hubert Burress somewhere came across a Code of Ethics that was subscribed to by a group of our men, that was written by another denomination (I think it was the Presbyterian, but I'm not sure). He brought it to the Ordaining Council. The Ordaining Council looked it over and did some (that's the Central Conference) rehashing and reworking and presented it to the Executive Committee of the Conference. Later it was presented to the Conference, I think in 1952. It was beat about some, and later the moderator, the Rev. C. L. Patrick, appointed a committee (and that was in 1953, I believe) to study it and to bring it back. Quite a few had signed it. At first it was a volunteer thing, and later it became compulsory. Now when you ordain a man, he must sign the Code of Ethics.

(To be continued in next month's issue)

Layman's League

Dates to Remember

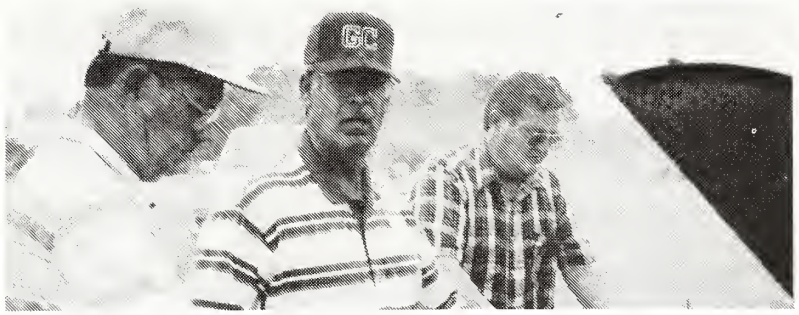
June 2 — Central Conference Layman's League
Harrell's Chapel, Highway 58, Snow Hill
Supper, 7:00 PM; Business Meeting, 7:45 PM.

June 5 — Layman's League Executive Board
Convention Headquarters, Ayden, 7:30 PM

June 6–7 — Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere
Friday Night — "Called Out" Gospel Group

Layman's League Involved in Spring Stretch

The Layman's League played a very important part in Spring Stretch which was held at Mount Olive College on April 5, 1997. Their job was to prepare and serve lunch. The meal consisted of hot dogs and hamburgers, along with the usual extras.



Members of the Layman's League putting the 'burgers and 'dogs in place on the grill.



The ladies are always there to help.



The serving begins.

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

Open and Ready

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

I am pleased to announce that Camp Vandemere is open for the new season. We are ready for you to come for a visit. We have already had one group to come for a weekend retreat. They had never been to Camp Vandemere and were pleased that we have such a fine camp for Christians to use. They had a fun-filled time as well as a spiritual renewal. We are looking forward to their returning for another retreat.

Our camp is open earlier than normal; this has been made possible because of the many friends of the camp. Several churches, youth groups, Sunday school classes, and individuals have come and helped us get ready for the new season. Our manager and his wife have worked very hard to get the camp ready. They have been busy working and keeping all these others busy also. As you know our manager and his wife (Aldric and Julia Gaskins) are now full time, and not just employed for six months as previously.

Recently, we had our annual clean-up day. We were pleased to have several to come and help us. We had people with their mowers, weed eaters, rakes, and kitchen cleaners working to help get the camp spic-n-span. We would like to say to big "Thank You" to all who came and worked. Since that work day we have had another group to come and hang sheet-rock for us in the room we are finishing in the family lodge. Each of these groups has been very helpful to the camp which has allowed us to stretch our resources. We still have several projects that a group could undertake, some are big, others are small. If you are interested in helping with one of these projects, please contact our manager.

Camp Vandemere invites you to come visit us, and spend a night or two in our family lodge. These rooms have two double beds, a sleeper sofa, a microwave, a small refrigerator, and private bath. The cost is only $25.00 per night. We are ready for your young people to come for a week of camp. There are several weeks that are not filled; choose one and send in your application. We have some new directors this year and we also have some who have been directing a week at Camp Vandemere for several years. I believe that all the directors are very good and we recommend all of them. Parents, please encourage your young people to attend Camp Vandemere this summer; the cost is just $60.00 per week for camp. Some directors might have some other fees and you will want to send some spending money also.

Some of you haven't been to Camp Vandemere, others of you haven't been in a long time. One of the couples who came to help with our clean-up day hadn't been to the camp in several years. They were excited to see all that has been accomplished at the camp. Some think about Vandemere when we had only tents for the campers and the only buildings were the bath houses and the Gilikin house — much has changed since then. We have two very nice buildings besides these, as well as the family lodge. One building is our kitchen-dining hall, and the other building is our dormitory. We can sleep about eighty people in our dorm and there is enough room in the dining hall to feed this many and more. Words cannot describe what the Lord has blessed us with. I am glad that we have ministers and laymen in our churches who had a vision of a camp several years ago. There is no way to measure the blessings and the number of souls that have been won for the Lord because of such a place as Camp Vandemere.

We also have camp sites available for those who would like to bring a camper down and stay for a few nights. We have a nice pier that you can fish or crab from, or just sit on and enjoy the quietness of the camp. Also, keep in mind that while you are at the camp you are in a Christian environment.

Once again, I want to say thanks for all you are doing for Camp Vandemere. Please don't lose sight of the vision of a camp by the sea. Pray for the camp, and come visit with our manager and his wife and see first hand what a wonderful job they are doing.

Manager:
Aldric and Julia Ann Gaskins
Home Phone: 919–637–4949
Camp Phone: 919–745–3171

Treasurer:
Mrs. Judith Kennedy
933-N NC 41
Pink Hill, NC 28572
910–298–4311

On August 9, Camp Vandemere is hosting a day of Southern Gospel singing. It will start about 10:00 AM and go until late afternoon. The groups have been booked and we will be announcing them to you a little later. We plan to have food available during the day. This will take place at the camp under the big tent that the Home Missions and Evangelism Ministry has so graciously agreed to lend us. Bring your lawn chairs, your appetites, your desire for good Southern Gospel music, and spend the day with us.

Cragmont News

The following article was written by fourth grade student, Sarah Jones, for a school assignment. Her assignment was to write about "an exciting time spent with a friend." Sarah is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Jones and a member of the Hickory Chapel FWB Church AFC. As I read this several interesting things stood out. (1) Sarah was not asked to write about Cragmont; she made that choice on her own. (2) Her experience at Cragmont must have made a big impact upon her summer for her to choose it as the subject of her writing. (3) She was typical in describing the fun they had picking on their counselors. (4) At the end she shared the essence of what the ministry of Cragmont is... "we had fun while we learned about Jesus." Discovery, Decision, Discipleship.

The best thing about Cragmont is we had fun while we learned about Jesus.

This week I'm going to Cragmont. It is a camp in the mountains. While you're there you stay busy the whole week. At the end of the week you throw water balloons and shoot your counselors with water guns. Plus you wrap them up in paper to look like mummies. Kimberly and Michelle will be there, too. So will Clair.

On the bus to Cragmont Michelle and I played on her computer she brought along while Kim was running her mouth about nothing. Every now and then we would get bored with the computer and do something else. As soon as we got there we had a snack then we went and got settled in our dorm rooms. The dorm rooms were more like hotel rooms. They had the nicest bathrooms with nice cabinets to keep bathroom needs in. There were two nice beds, a night stand, a chest of drawers, and a fan in case we got hot. Plus the beds were made nicely. After we were settled we went to the chapel for a treasure hunt. We also played games such as basketball, baseball, and soccer. Michelle and I were having so much fun we kept forgetting to make friends. But by the end of the week we had made a lot of new friends.

The next day we went swimming. Michelle and I raced. We thought that was the most fun part of the week.

But little did we know, because the very next day we went mountain climbing. Michelle and I were acting like Daniel Boone and singing. We almost had to drag Kim up. Once we reached the top it was a marvelous sight.

On the way back down Michelle and I talked about the marvelous sight and sang "Hi Ho, Hi Ho it's home from work we go." Then whistling the tune to repeat the song just like the seven dwarfs. When we got to the bottom of the mountain we wanted to go back up again. But no one else wanted to go back up with us so we went along with the group and when we got back we all loaded up on the van to go home.

On the way home Michelle and I played with her computer, stopping to do something else because we were bored. When we got home we told our moms and dads about the trip. We like Cragmont a lot!

The best thing about Cragmont is we had fun while we learned about Jesus.

June is Cragmont Month

SUMMER CONFERENCES

June Woman's Auxiliary
June 2–7, 1997
Teresa Ball
(919–524–4677)
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Minister's
June 9–12, 1997
Doug Skinner
(919–596–2456)
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703

Christian Cadet
June 16–21, 1997
Gary Bailey
(919–735–3916)
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier (YFA)
June 23–28, 1997
Scott and Janie Sowers
(919–321–7542)
Post Office Box 639
Bell Arthur, NC 27811

Youth Frontier (AFC)
June 30–July 5, 1997
Frankie Baggett
(919–746–3534)
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II
July 7–12, 1997
Chris Singleton
(910–298–3520)
Post Office Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I
July 14–19, 1997
Bryant Hines
(919–638–3436)
Post Office Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Young People's Bible
July 21–26, 1997
Jesse Fulcher
(919–223–5836)
144 Holly Springs Road
Newport, NC 28570

August Woman's Auxiliary
July 28–August 2, 1997
Teresa Ball
(919–524–4677)
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

John's Wish List

Sometimes the question is asked: "Is there something that Cragmont needs that a Sunday school class could help to raise funds for?" Below we have started John's Wish List. This list will no doubt grow in length, as over time more things will come to my mind. Some items on this list will be expensive enough that several churches could come together to help raise funds for. Below is a first "John's Wish List" for your review. Should you or your church or church organization feel a special calling to help with any of these items please let us know.

John's Wish List

- Two golf carts
- Stacking chairs for chapel
- Decks for the outside dorm entrances

It's Time...

It's time to begin planning a special recognition in your church for Cragmont. We ask that you consider at least one of the following suggestions:

1. Have a special Cragmont service one Sunday during the month.
2. Take a special Cragmont offering.
3. Have someone or several people give a brief testimony during the worship service each Sunday of the month. Have them focus on their spiritual experience while attending a conference or retreat. There are many people who accept Christ and/or called to the ministry while at Cragmont.
4. Each Sunday during the worship service have your congregation pray for the staff who work at Cragmont. Pray that God will use the summer youth conferences, Minister's conference, and Women's conferences to bring revival to those who attend.

Registration Form
Cragmont Women's Conference
July 28 – August 2

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

_____

_____

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here. _____

Mail this registration form along with a $20.00 deposit to:
Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of $120.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned to The Knoxville Riverboat dinner cruise ($65.00), and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville ($5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us.

Minister's Program Sunday is June 15, 1997

Father's Day, June 15, 1997 has been set aside by the Convention as Minister's Program Sunday in the local church. While this may not be front page news, it can have a very positive effect on your church.

The purpose for Minister's Program Sunday is twofold. Father's Day is a day in which we honor our fathers who are living and remember those who are not. When we describe fathers we generally use terms like, leadership, strength, hard working, diligent, tireless, wise, understanding, and compassionate. Would you use some of these same terms to describe your pastor? Certainly! Most of the time we don't think about our pastor unless we need him, or when we disagree with him.

Although your pastor may not be your father, the same characteristics that make a good father also make a good pastor. This day will give you an opportunity to consider your pastor in the same light that we think about fathers. When congregations view their pastor in a positive light, then positive things seem to happen in our churches.

Another consideration for Minister's Program Sunday is that unless your church is very young you have probably had several pastors. The Minister's Program has the privilege of helping many pastors plan for their retirement and over the last few years several of these men have outlived their benefits. Did their monthly income stop? No! Through your gifts these men who have given so much continue to receive their benefit and more. This is only through the generosity of God's people, you! These men may have been your former pastors and your friends.

Please consider receiving a special offering this Father's Day or send a gift to the Minister's Program so we can continue the program you have commissioned us to do.

The FWB Minister's Program
Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

News Release

"Be Something" Yawn Tells Graduates

Dr. Billy R. Yawn gave graduates three charges: "Be something; believe something; and do something." Speaking to candidates for graduation and their relatives at Mount Olive College's commencement worship service, Dr. Yawn challenged the graduates "to make a difference" as they carried on with their lives after graduating next Saturday.

An alumnus of Mount Olive College's Class of 1960 and now pastor of the Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Fremont, NC, Dr. Yawn returned to his alma mater to deliver the commencement sermon.

Citing the accomplishments and contributions of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington Carver, Dr. Yawn encouraged the graduates to give themselves for others.

In his charge to "be something," Dr. Yawn said, "Whatever it is you decide to pursue, decide that you are going to be the very best.

"You will make mistakes along the way, but don't give up," he said. "Do the right thing. Also, live with courage and remember that you are not alone."

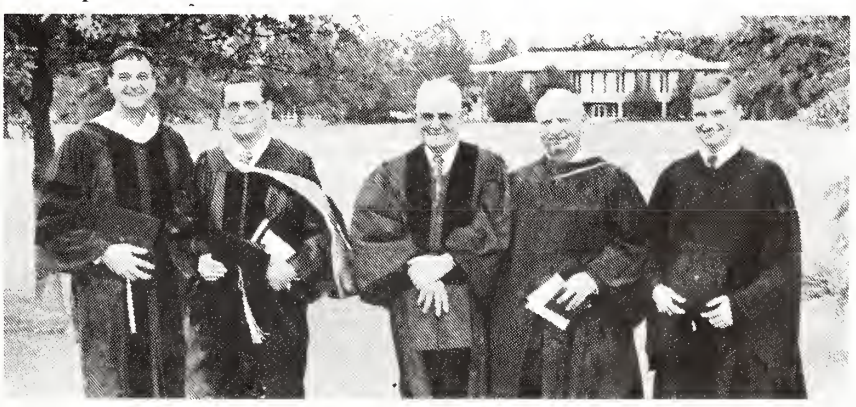
In his remarks to "believe in something," Dr. Yawn recommended the Holy Bible as the best reference on how to live, citing the Bible as Abraham Lincoln's choice for comfort and counsel throughout his life.

And finally, in his encouragment to "do something," Yawn told the graduates to be like the salt of the earth. "Salt preserves, protects, and causes things to happen," he said.

Calling attention to Methuselah whom the Bible says lived 969 years and little else, Dr. Yawn warned the graduates not to have the same epitaph: "He lived and died."

Also participating in the service were: the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister, who gave the invocation, introduction of the speaker, and benediction; Mark Bryan, a graduating senior from Dudley, who read from Scripture; the Rev. James B. Hardee, pastor of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Bladenboro, who gave the commencement prayer; Dr. George D. Thigpen, director of Mount Olive's New Bern campus, who led the congregation in the Apostles' Creed, and Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music, who played the piano for the hymns, processional, and recessional.

A reception in the Lois K. Murphey Regional Center followed the worship service.



From left to right are: Dr. George Thigpen, Dr. Billy R. Yawn, the Rev. James B. Hardee, the Rev. Frank Harrison, and graduating senior Mark Bryan at Mount Olive College's commencement worship service on May 4.

Mount Olive College Honors Students' Achievements

Mount Olive College recently held its annual awards ceremony to honor students for achievements in campus activities and academics. The honors were presented at a mid-day ceremony in Rodgers Chapel with many relatives and friends of award recipients present. Among those receiving awards were the following Free Will Baptists:

Student Activity Awards

Reagan Singleton of Beulaville was honored with the Founders' Leadership Award for character, initiative and leadership. Dr. W. Burkette Raper, director of planned giving, made the presentation in honor of the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, a trustee of the college from 1953 to 1955. The Rev. Barrow was present for the presentation.

Reagan was also introduced as Vice President of the College's Student Government Association.

Academic Awards

April Howard of Christian Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Pink Hill, was presented a scholarship by the Coastal Plains Chapter of the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Becky D. Craft of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, was selected to receive the William L. Warren Music Award for instrumental study. Ms. Irene Weldon, associate professor of music presented the music awards.

The Rev. B. Todd Sutton, pastor of May's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Dudley, and the Rev. Joey P. Williams, pastor of Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church Robersonville, received Free Will Baptist Ministerial Awards from the Rev. Jeff D. Daughtry, president of the N.C. Ministerial Association, for demonstrated potential for excellence in the Christian ministry.

Julie E. Wetherington of Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern, received the Faculty Award for Student Excellence for academic excellence and superior extracurricular activity involvement. Ms. Pamela Wood, professor of library science and chair of the faculty awards committee, made the presentation.

D. Tamara Loftin of Harrell's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Snow Hill, was named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* for excellence in academics.



Reagan Singleton is presented the Founders' Leadership award. Dr. W. Burkette Raper made the presentation for the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, a trustee of Mount Olive College from 1953 to 1955.



The Rev. Todd Sutton received the FWB Ministerial Award from the Rev. Jeff D. Daughtry, president of the N.C. Ministerial Assocation.



Julie E. Wetherington recieved the Faculty Award for Student Excellence from Pam Wood, professor of library science.



Becky D. Craft received the William L. Warren Music Award. Ms. Irene Weldon, Associate Professor of Music made the presentation.



The Rev. Daughtry presents a FWB Ministerial Award to the Rev. Joey P. Williams. The award recognizes demonstrated potential for excellence in the Christian ministry.



D. Tamara Loftin was named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.*

Silver Creek Member Enjoys Role



With its June 20, 1997 opening, The Crystal Coast Amphitheatre celebrates its tenth anniversary. Celebrating her tenth season with the Amphitheatre's play, "Worthy is the Lamb," is a delightful lady loved by many North Carolinians, Mrs. Addie Starnes.

Mrs. Starnes is the widow of the late Reverend J. B. Starnes, an Albemarle native, who led revivals throughout North Carolina and served for sixteen years in the eastern part of the state, particularly in the Kinston area.

Continuing the role she began ten years ago as that of a bedouin woman in the camel caravan, Mrs. Addie remembers those early practice sessions. Her first introduction to the play came as a couple from her Holly Springs Free will Baptist Church in Newport persuaded her to accompany them to a practice session already in progress in a building "somewhere on Emerald Isle." Mrs. Addie was intrigued, beginning this new production with no concept of the set on which it was to be played.

Now, she explains that when she steps onto the set of the City of Jerusalem she "feels like a woman of that time." She doesn't just act; she "lives" her role.

Mrs. Addie, familiar with playing many roles as a minister's wife, changes roles within the production with capability and ease. She quickly changes from a Bedouin woman to a mourner at the Tomb of Lazarus, then enters the city praising the Lord with palm branches in His triumphal entry. Next she accuses Peter of being "one of them;" and, completes her cameo performances as a member of the mob scene at the Crucifixion.

Mrs. Addie may also greet your bus as she sometimes supports the staff by working as a hostess before putting on her costume for the evening performance. She is indeed a woman of many roles.

Being involved with "Worthy is the Lamb" is "good for me," Mrs. Addie says. She gets excited in the spring, looking forward to rehearsals and performances to begin because, "It's like meeting family each night."

She explains that since people know she's in the play, that no matter where she is, when asked about the play, she has an opening to witness. Many ladies may remember her doing just that, telling of the play and witnessing, at the Cragmont Assembly, several years ago.

A member of Silver Creek Free Will Baptist Church where she serves as church pianist and member of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Addie is celebrating its first year of church status in 1997.

Crystal Coast's Passion Play

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Outdoor musical drama in its 10th season. A world class production on the life of Christ presented in a 2,000 seat water front amphitheatre.

June 20–August 23: Thurs., Fri. & Sat: 8:30 PM
August 24–September 20: Fri. & Sat. 8:00 PM

Near Morehead City and Emerald Isle, three miles north of the Emerald Isle Bridge off Highway #58, easily accessible from I-40, I-95 and Highway 70 & 17.

(919) 393–8373
1–800–662–5960

CRYSTAL COAST AMPHITHEATRE
Swansboro, NC

Boy Scouts of America
Charter
Granted to the

First Free Will Baptist

upon application through authorized representatives to carry on the Scouting program for
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT • CITIZENSHIP TRAINING
MENTAL AND PHYSICAL FITNESS
subject to the provisions of the Charter and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America
for the period ending

December 31, 1997
Troop 79
Williamston, NC

In testimony whereof the Boy Scouts of America has caused this charter to be issued and its corporate seal to be affixed.

Chief Scout Executive

Boy Scouts of America
Incorporated February 8, 1910
Chartered by Congress June 15, 1916



June 1997



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SUN	MON	TUE	
1	2	3	4 Ju
8	9	10 Minister's Conference at Cragmont	11
15 *Father's Day*	16	17	18 Cl Mexico Sho
22	23 Mexico Short–Term Mission I	24 *St. John the Baptist*	25 Youth
29	30 MOC Session B Begins Youth Frontier Conference AFC at Cragmont	1	2

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	THU	FRI	SAT
	5 7:00 PM Layman's League Executive Board	**6**	**7** Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee
nan's Conference at Cragmont		Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat	
	12	**13**	**14** *Flag Day*
			Mexico Short-Term…
	19	**20**	**21** *Summer Begins*
Cadet Conference at Cragmont			
Mission I			
	26	**27** MOC Session A Ends	**28**
r Conference — YFA at Cragmont			
	3	**4**	**5**

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

In Tribute To

Linda Faye Owens Bray

November 12, 1941
February 23, 1997

She was no stranger to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, having grown up in the Middlesex community. She attended school with many of the children who grew up at the home. In fact, her best friend lived at the Children's Home and Linda would visit and spend the night with her. She often recalled those evenings when "Pa Smith" would visit every child at bedtime and say good night to them. She began employment at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in 1972. During her twenty-five years of service, she filled many capacities including Receptionist, Secretary, Bookkeeper, Director of Admissions, and Executive Secretary. Her most recent position was Director of Administration. During her service she worked on many projects and assisted in every department. She was the recording secretary for the board meetings, involved in public relations and publicity including the newsletter, maintained donor files, and was instrumental in all facets of administration. Mrs. Bray was not just an employee but an individual who shared in the lives of children. During her service to our child care ministry, many lives were touched by her attitude and style. She was a graduate of Middlesex High School. After a courageous battle with cancer, she resigned in January of 1997. A devoted mother and friend she has been greatly missed by everyone who knew her. Surviving are a daughter, Wendy C. Bray, and son David C. Bray, both of Middlesex; and her mother, Alice Owens Hopkins.



Inactive Membership

Listed below are individuals and organizations whose memberships with the Church Finance Association have been inactive for a number of years and unless legal claim is made on these memberships they will revert to the general fund of the Church Finance Association on August 2, 1997.

If your name is listed below or if you are a member of any organizations named and you wish to make legal claim to these memberships, please file a claim with supporting documentation to the office of the Church Finance Association, Inc., located at 811 N. Lee Street in Ayden, NC on or before August 1, 1997.

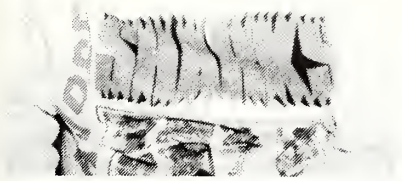
William Thigpen, Secretary

Bethel Church, Kinston	30.00
Cathedral FWB Church	400.00
Dawson's Grove FWB Auxiliary	50.00
First Western Sunday School Convention	47.97
First FWB Church, Wilmington	225.00
Swannanoa FWB Church	187.12
Third Western Union Meeting	25.00
Trinity FWB Church, New Hanover County	225.00
Union Grove, Durham County	25.00
Washington FWB Church	145.00
Victory First Deaf Church	17.00
White Oak Hill Sunday School	54.57
M. V. Avery	25.00
A. F. Ballance	25.00
Mrs. J. R. Bennett	25.00
Mrs. G. P. Best	25.00
Daniel Barrow	50.00
Mrs. H. J. Corbett	50.00
Mrs. W. M. Everton	25.00
Mrs. Jesse Ferrell	50.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Fleming	25.00
Jessie Gay	25.00
Rev. and Mrs. R. N. Hinnant	50.00
Rev. W. H. Lancaster	25.00
Rev. L. B. Manning	25.00
Rev. H. M. Minchew	31.28
J. L. Parker	25.00
Rev. Chester Pelt	25.00
N. C. Rice	25.00
Mrs. R. W. Smith	25.00
Hardy Talton	25.00
Lee Thomas	37.00
S. J. Tripp	25.00
T. L. Tyndall	25.00
Rev. Lloyd Vernon	25.00
George Webster	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Weatherington	75.00
Rev. J. H. Worley	25.00
Rosa Worley	25.00

Eastern Europe — Hyperinflation

by Willem van der Plas





I never heard that word before, and I assure you that the misery which hyperinflation causes is terrible to many people.

The first sign came to us when some banks went bankrupt. Then there was an increase of reports that factories had to close. Unemployment increased fast and the B. Leva fell as never before. Supermarkets made their shelves empty and stopped selling their products. The only available goods were vinegar, wine, cheap soap, and sometimes bread and milk. In the open market places the stands remained empty as well.

The people radiated more and more sorrows. Many people entered shops and when they saw the prices they went out again without being able to buy any food, not even bread. We saw them shaking their heads with tears in their eyes. Hyperinflation was the result of two years of socialistic-communistic economy.

One day, in a supermarket in a nearby village, where we often buy our groceries because the people there have become good friends, a man entered and was greeted, "Good Morning Doctor." He is a retired cardiologist. He looked at the prices of sausage and went out without buying and full of sorrow. A man who gave his whole life to serve people belongs now to the poorest of the nations. His retirement income/wages have no value anymore. They are good for ten breads, that's it.

Daily we have seen well-dressed people searching in trash containers for something valuable or edible.

This all began before we went to Holland. There we were disturbed by the luxury. In that time the Dutch National TV began to send out pictures of the people of Sophia, the capital of Bulgaria. The situation became violent and worse everyday. Dutch friends showed more interest and were ready for immediate action to send aid goods to Bulgaria. With their cars and trailers behind them they sent twenty metric tons of food, medical appliances, medicines and clothes to Ulm in Germany, from where large trucks transported the goods to Sophia.

Imagine how great the thankfulness and joy when all these love gifts arrived in Balchik. We could help three children's homes, one children's sanatorium, the districts hospital and the social service of Balchik, with the needed products. In our own office we still can provide food and clothes to the people who are in real need.

Nowadays we feed our children daily when they come to our meetings. Fortunately, the winter is over. The cold does not torture the people anymore, but many are still without sufficient income to be able to buy their daily bread.

We are very thankful to our Lord and Provider, and we pray for our people here. Please pray with us for a better future for all Bulgarians.

Bible Training Program 1997

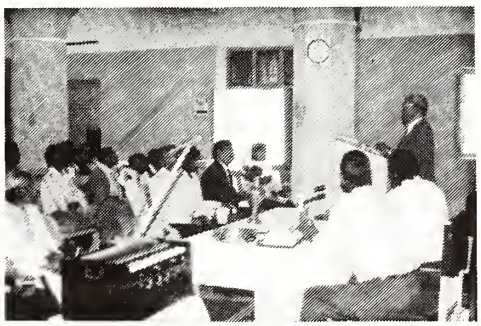
by Dr. E. M. Lall

Our Bible Training Program was conducted at Bareilly from April 3 to April 6, 1997. This time we laid more emphasis in Bible studies, questions, and answers from our people. We did not invite teachers from outside as our own ministers have become well versed to lead and conduct the program.

There were 54 participants, ministers and deacons from our congregations from India and Nepal, who took interest in the whole program and were excited to take part.

In the vesper services, personal testimonies, Christian experience, and congregational achievements were reported by all. Problems and their remedies faced by some local congregations were also resolved.

Our people were thankful to our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones for funding this program every year which is significant to us all. It also gives us the opportunity to share our thoughts on various matters and to stay together for a few days in a year, derive mutual encouragement and strength and plan out strategy for future work.



Bible training program, April 3 – 6, 1997



Group of some people who participated in the training program.

His Manifold Blessing and Our Indigenous Achievements in Retrospect

by Dr. E. M. Lall

The Free Will Baptist Church in India was established back in November, 1975, at Bareilly and some other places in our state. We did not have any church building at that time and worship services were conducted in the homes. We were fasting and praying for the fulfillment of this need. Our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones, and I looked to Christ Church at Bareilly in 1987, which was lying abanded and in a most dilapidated state, being built in 1838 by the English People. This touched our hearts and we continued prayers and endeavours to achieve it from the Church of North India. The Lord heard our cry and things came in a way that this church building, with huge land appertinent to it, was vested to us. Our counterparts in North Carolina provided funds for it to complete renovation. It is now a monument, a most prestigious church, rather a land mark at Bareilly. Our Government recently made a beautiful park around the pond in front of our church which has added beauty to the house of our Lord.

Not only this, we were led by the Spirit to build four more churches at Dhauratanda, Khaunsara, Tondalpur, and in Western Nepal.

We were in dire need for an office building ever since the establishment of our church organization on the soil of our country. We received rebukes by the Registration Office of the Government unitl one was donated to us by our children. It was dedicated by the Rev. Harold Jones in November 1995. It is a most prestigious office in prime location of the city of Bareilly, having its unique look.

In fact we have no words to express our gratitude to God to many other blessings, such as: a parsonage, residence-cum-office, of our national director-treasurer, church driver's residence, electric generators, one for the use of the church and the other for the use of the office, water pumping sets for the field in the church campus, and compiling one hundred copies of English hymnals with rituals and liturgy for use in English worship service.

We got over the communication gap, by installing one telephone at Christ Church and the other in this office at our initiative. In order to keep pace with the growing work at the office, a computer and an air conditioner have recently been installed in the office.

One of the great necessities lately impressed upon our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones was to provide two retiring rooms (rest rooms) at the church campus in the event of Bible Training Programs and for the Church Convention, etc. Eight toilets, four of them recently, have been built by us which were used at the time of the last Bible Training Program. We are sincerely praying for funds for building these two rooms.

In keeping with the policy of our Board of Foreign Missions regarding self-supporting programs, the Lord of Lords led 21 teachers and 25 ministers and deacons to become completely self-supporting during the ensuing fiscal year 1997–98. The bearing of 2% further cut shall also be borne by us.

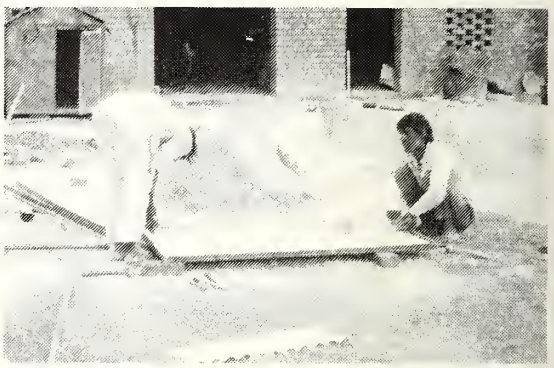
We are extremely grateful to the Lord who sustained us and gave us the courage and strength, even though we are from among the 40% below the poverty line, to co-operate with our Board in sharing the work of our Lord.



Computer in Office



Four toilets built at church campus.





Four complete toilets built that already existed at the church campus.

Philippines — Cottage Prayer Meeting

by Pastor Orlando Garcia

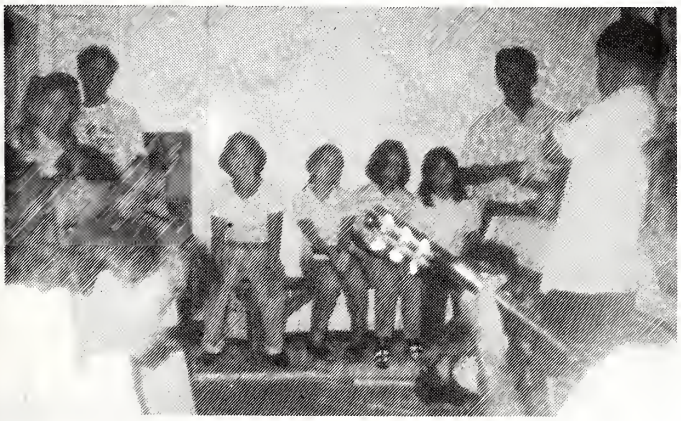
The fellowship of the believers, as described in Acts 2:42–47, is a very important part of Christian activity and that is what the Puerto Princesa Free Will Baptist Church is doing for its members.

We are holding cottage prayer meetings once a month in the homes of our members. They select the date for the meeting. Oftentimes they will select an important or memorable moment or day in their life, such as anniversaries, birthdays, etc.

These activities are held at night because this is the time that the members are able to participate. They bring their relatives, neighbors, and friends. Cottage prayer meeting is an informal gathering with singing, memory verses, reading, testimonies and most of all the exhortation from the Word of God. Prayer requests are given after the message and assigned to each person for prayer.

We close with snack time which is enjoyed by all. Everyone enjoys the fellowship so much that even after two hours they are not bored or tired.

Please pray for the Puerto Princesa Free Will Baptist Church and all the members as they continue to serve the Lord daily.





Philippines — Maranatha Youth Sunday School Classroom

by the Rev. Bobot S. Ontong

Last June of 1996, the youth of Maranatha Free Will Baptist Church started to pray for a classroom where they could gather every Sunday for their Sunday school. This need was shared with the Rev. Harold Jones during his visit last October, 1996. In January, 1997, we received the total cash of ₱3,915.00. Deacon Rene Pacia donated also ₱1,500.00 and the youth produced ₱2,960.00. The Maranatha youth had a total of ₱8,375.00 when they started the construction on the classroom in February, 1997, and it was dedicated to the Lord in March.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord is so good, and He never fails in His promises. He promises to provide the needs of His children and we experienced that. When we were in need of a classroom, we prayed and asked Him to provide it and He did. Yes, He used Rev. Jones and Brother Pacia, but it is He who provided it. I'm also thankful for those people who donated the money for the construction of the said classroom.

May God continue His blessing to all His children.





Note: The Vina Wilson Circle of La Grange Free Will Baptist Church gave $150.00 toward the construction of this classroom.

Al Warrick Is Ordained

by Ruth L. Warrick

Al Warrick was ordained Sunday night, April 13, 1997 at his home church, Johnston Union Free Will Baptist on Highway 70 West, three miles from Smithfield. The Cape Fear Ordaining Council was in charge of the service.

The choir sang "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" as the Call to Worship. The Rev. Gene Britt, Pastor of Johnston Union, gave the Invocation and Welcome. The Rev. Edmundo Gonzalez, member of the Board of Ordination responded. He introduced the Rev. Frank Harrison, Secretary of the Council and Chaplain at Mount Olive College, who brought the message from 1 Corinthians 2:1–5. He emphasized that a successful minister must be a person committed to the Word, to prayer, and the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel Ministry Charge was presented by the Rev. Phillip Boykin, Board member and pastor of Lee's Chapel Church.

The choir sang "To God Be The Glory." The Rev. Charlie Carroll, Board member and pastor of Wooten's Chapel presented the Bible.

Ministers in the congregation were invited to join in the service of the Laying on of Hands. The Rev. C. M. Coats prayed the Prayer of Dedication. Roger Matthews sang "The Unseen Hand."

The Rev. Gonzalez presented the Certificate of Ordination to the Rev. Warrick who gave the closing remarks.

"Blest Be the Tie" was sung by the congregation. The Rev. Donald Coates prayed the benediction and blessings on the reception which was hosted in the fellowship hall by the Rev. and Mrs. Britt, the Deacons and their wives.

Musicians were Jewel Gower, Organist; Cathy Thompson, Pianist; and Jean Tripp, Music Director.

Special quests were Al's wife, Debby, and his daughters, Amy, Tobie and Karen.

In the little more than two hundred guests in attendance, there were representatives from Palmer Memorial Free Will Baptist Church were Al has been serving as interim pastor; from Bowden Presbyterian, where he supplied before being licensed by Johnston Union; from Mount Olive College, where Al served in different positions for twelve years and from Johnston Community College, where he currently is serving as Dean of Vocational Education.

Al is the son of Ruth Warrick of Smithfield and the late Almond Warrick. He is the grandson of the late Rev. W. H. Lancaster who was ordained at Johnston Union in 1920 and served the churches for fifty years, also of the late Lena Lancaster. His paternal grandparents were the late Charlie and Jessie Williams Warrick.

Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC

On Easter Sunday, the church had its first "blooming cross." Following the morning service, the congregation came forward one by one and placed beautiful spring flowers on a bare wooden cross in honor of the Risen Saviour.





As a fundraiser for summer camp, the youth decorated and delivered 109 heart-shaped cakes. The cakes were delivered on Valentine's day.



On March 29, the church sponsored an Easter egg hunt for all the children.

Silver Jubilee

by Amy C. Stokes



The Rev. Frank Flowers was honored on April 13, 1997 at Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC. Mr. Flowers celebrated twenty-five years of service to our Lord and Saviour.

Many words or praise and thanks were spoken to Mr. Flowers. The Rev. David C. Hansley recalled the Rev. Flowers' accepting the call on January 10, 1971. The Rev. Fred Rivenbark could not attend, so he put onto paper his recollection of the Ordination Service held on June 12, 1972. Many churches, that have been blessed to have Mr. Flowers pastor for them, offered thanks and each remembered great accomplishments. Some of the churches included were represented as follows: Jackson Heights, Kinston, Mr. Sig Grady; Kings Crossroads, Farmville, Mrs. Berlene Hobgood and Mrs. Joan Little; Free Union, Walstonburg, Mrs. Mary Ellen Shirley; and Little Creek, Ayden, Dr. Charles Russell and Mr. James Ray McLawhorn. Mr. Flowers also serves on the Board of Directors at the Free Will Baptist Press. Mr. Cliff Gray expressed his appreciation for his service and dedication.

A plaque and a collection of pictures of the churches Mr. Flowers has ministered to was given by Little Creek and was presented by Mr. James Ray McLawhorn. The children of Little Creek presented him with gift certificates to K&W Cafeteria and sang "If there is anything I can do for you."

Special music was also presented by the Rev. and Mrs. Keith Wagner, and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Vick and their daughter Kara.

Words of love and respect were spoken by Mr. Flowers' wife, Jackie, his daughter Leigh Sanders, and his grandson Tan Sanders.

Following the service everyone gathered in the church annex for a reception given by the ladies of Little Creek.

The members of Little Creek are blessed to have a wonderful, loving servant of the Lord as their pastor. May God bless him as he continues his service.

On behalf of Jackie Flowers, Jamie Leigh, and Tan Sanders, a grand thank-you goes out to everyone who played a part in making this celebration a success. A great deal of love and time were devoted to preparing words to be spoken, songs to be sung, gifts to be given, and food to be eaten, and their appreciation is extended to all.

Juniper Chapel Teens Treat Pastor and His Wife to a Night on the Town!

by the Rev. Greg Mills

Several weeks ago, our teens asked, "Do you have plans for Friday night?" "No, what's up?" was our reply. They told us to be ready at 5:00 PM and to dress casually.

The teens picked us up and chauffeured us to Greenville. They took us out to a nice restaurant and then treated us to a couple of fun games of bowling (girls against the guys).

Of all the things that teenagers could do on a Friday night, they chose to treat their Pastor and his wife to a night on the town! We love and appreciate them so much. Thanks teens, you're the greatest!



Left to right: Lee Wilson, Melissa Bryan, Angela Roach, Mrs. Cynthia, Pastor Greg, Brad Piner, Brian Smyer. Kneeling: Jessica Fillingame, Amanda Roach.

Many Years of Perfect Attendance



Pictured is Mr. H. H. Pollard and Mrs. Callie Barbour, both of Wooten's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Wake County, NC, with the pastor, the Rev. Charlie Carroll. Mr. Pollard has fifty-one years of perfect Sunday school attendance. Mrs. Barbour has twenty-one years of perfect attendance.

Groundbreaking Service Held

by Lynn H. Paul

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, NC Hwy 99 N., Pantego, NC, held a groundbreaking service for its new fellowship building on Sunday, April 20, 1997. The service began in the sanctuary with the congregation singing "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us." Brother Terry Cooper lead the congregation in the invocational prayer. A warm welcome was extended to all who were in attendance for this special occasion.

During the worship service the combined youth and adult choirs presented special music entitled "I Want to be a Worker for the Lord." The congregation then joined together in singing "Faith of our Fathers." To close out the song service, the cherub choir presented a musical selection.

The Rev. A. B. Bryan, supply pastor, used as his Scripture text 1 Chronicles 29:10–16. His remarks centered on giving God the glory for the building of this facility and using it for the uplifting of His Kingdom. He continued that it was his prayer that the work would be done according to God's will for the church here and that the church would be blessed in the building of the fellowship building.

After concluding his remarks, Mr. Bryan led the congregation outside for the groundbreaking ceremony. He led the congregation in responsive reading and Brother Andrew Paul led in prayer. Mr. Paul dug the first shovelful of soil stating that "a good work is well begun." Then the trustees, deacons, Ladies Auxiliary president, along with Mr. Bryan, broke the ground for the fellowship building. Also breaking ground were the church's oldest living member, Mrs. Mollie Davis, and the church's newest arrival, 4-week-old Angel Davis (with the help of her parents), and members of the church youth groups. Others of the congregation also came forward to turn the soil in this historic and exciting occasion.



Left to right: Danny Clayton, trustee; Hilton Harris, deacon and trustee; Andrew Paul, deacon and trustee; Louise Stotesberry, Ladies Auxiliary President; the Rev. A. B. Bryan, supply pastor; Shelton Cooper, treasurer.



Left to right: Jennifer Tuten; Jessica Paul; Charles Davis; Crystal Cooper; Nicholas Cooper; Nicole Clayton (youth in the church who participated in the groundbreaking ceremonies), and the Rev. A. B. Bryan, supply pastor.

The service ended with the congregation singing "To the Work." Louise Stotesberry, Ladies Auxiliary President, closed the service with the benediction.

Dedication Service



A special dedication service was held on April 6, 1997, at Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, NC. The son of Del and Wanda Joyner was dedicated to the Lord. Both Del and Wanda were baptized on Easter Sunday and united with Spring Branch Church, thus making their commitment to the Lord.

The pastor is the Rev. Walt Tyndall.

Holly Springs Woman of the Year



Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC, chose Ms. Sandra Mae Styron as its Woman of the Year.

Sandra was born in Carteret County. She was married to Joseph Garland Styron on November 18, 1975. They have two children, Joey seventeen and Jamie, eleven. Sandra and her family live in Newport, next door to her mother, Bertha Durham and her brother, Jackie Durham. Sandra was the youngest of five brothers and two sisters. She is the deli manager of the A and P Store in Morehead City where she has been employed for more than 10 years.

Sandra has been very active in the Ladies Auxiliary since 1989. She has held the office of Project Sales in 1990, president in 1991, vice-president 1992-93, and president in 1995–97. She has been a member of Holly Springs Church for fifteen years. She also helps teach the ladies Sunday school class. She is loved by everyone she meets. It was easy to choose her as the Woman of the Year at Holly Springs Church.

Life Membership Presented at Western District

The Western District Ladies Auxiliary Convention was held on April 2, 1997, at Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church with 102 in attendance. The theme for the program was, "The Glory of Christ." A wonderful day of praise and song was enjoyed by all. A Life Membership award was presented to Mrs. Donna Holland, a member of Union Grove Church, Wayne County. She was praised for her active role in her church, community, and with her family. She has long been a faithful member of her church where she serves as choir director and teaches a Sunday school class. In her local auxiliary, she has held many offices and is the current missions chairman. She has served as president in the local district for six years, and has served as field secretary of the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention. She has worked in Cragmont conferences for many years and is currently director for the Woman's Conference.

Donna is married to Rand Holland and they have three children — two daughters and a son. She also has one grandson. The Western District felt it an honor to present this Life Membership Award to Mrs. Donna Holland.

North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention

by Ruth Warrick, Corresponding Secretary

The seventieth Annual Session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention met May 8, 1997, at White Oak Free Will Baptist Church in Bladenboro. The Pee Dee Woman's Auxiliary District served as hostess.

The theme, "To Be Holy," was emphasized throughout the session.

Officers of the Convention opened the session with a medley in song, directed by Mrs. Diane Riley. The opening hymn was, "Take My Life and Let it Be."

Mrs. Teresa Ball gave the devotions and Mrs. Riley sang, "Holy, Holy." Mrs. Ruth Warrick then led in prayer. Mrs. Edith McPherson welcomed everyone and Mrs. Martha Parsons gave the response. Mrs. Peggy Carden made the announcements. President Carolyn Jernigan then gave her remarks and then recognized the state officers and delegates from the seven districts.

Following the singing of "Blessed Assurance," Ms. Becky Jo Sumner presented, on behalf of the Convention, the Life Membership Award to Mrs. Alma Dale Cox.

After a break the congregation sang "Breathe on Me." Mrs. Rose Williams led in the Memorial Service. Mrs. Deborah King sang, "Find Us the Faithful." The congregation than sang, "Search Me, O God."

Mrs. Happy Taylor, Program Chairman, presented Mrs. Jean Ackiss. Mrs. King then sang, "Worthy Is His Name." Mrs. Ackiss expounded on "To Be Holy" in a very challenging message, followed by a prayer of commitment by Mrs. Sandra Jones.

Mrs. Joan Little called for the representatives of the denominational ministries. Each spoke briefly.

The various reports will be in the next Yearbook.

The meeting closed with the singing of the last verse of "Blessed Assurance." Mrs. Clara Patrick prayed the benediction.

Lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall.

A total of 145 was in attendance. It was a great day in the Lord's service.

Smith New Home Easter Activities

Smith New Home Free Will Baptist Church, Deep Run, NC, had a full morning of activities on Easter Sunday, beginning with Sunrise Service, followed by a hearty country breakfast, prepared and served by the men of the Church.



During morning worship hour, the Compassion Banks for Missions were brought to the altar by the congregation. All ages participated in this special offering.



After all Compassion Banks had been placed at the altar, a special prayer of dedication was given by deacons Dallas Stroud, Harvey Tyndall, and Muriel Tyndall, and by the Rev. Walter Sutton, pastor.



Cancer Fight Helps Heal Church

by Rita D. Jones

Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, has gone through some trials over the past two years. Many members feel that the cancer fight of a young mother has been a part of the healing force that has caused the church to recover and grow and bring in new members from the surrounding community.

Vicky Thorne graduated from Smithfield-Selma Senior High in 1975. She worked at the Sylvania Company for a while until she had the opportunity to join a new company coming to the area — Natvar Corporation — from which she is currently on disability leave. She married Tom Bagley of Clayton in 1977. They have two sons, Chris, age 14, at Clayton High; and Daniel, age 10, at Clayton Elementary. Both boys are active in sports. Chris went to a Carolina Panthers game in 1995 as a state finalist in the Punt, Pass, and Kick competition. He also went to the Little League state competition in Oklahoma City in 1996. Both boys are members of Powhatan and were baptized in 1994. Vicky's husband, Tom, runs a transmission repair business on Highway 70 in Clayton and performs part time as a musician/singer with the Central Park Band.

Vicky fought breast cancer in 1992–93 and seemed to be on the road to a victory. She led Powhatan to participate in the "Relay for Life" cancer walk-a-thon in the spring of 1996 as a cancer survivor. Her fight pulled together people who may have had differences on petty issues and made them realize a church's responsibility is larger than minor disagreements. She was the co-director of the Christmas Play in 1995. In June, 1996, she helped coordinate a Youth Rally Program using a Celine Dione song "Because You Loved Me." She interpreted it as "Because *He* Loved Me" and demonstrated how we are who we are because Jesus loved us. Vicky worked with a Vacation Bible School class later that month and blessed each child with her loving example.

Powhatan, during the first part of 1996, had been having visiting speakers. The Rev. Lloyd Hargis had agreed to serve as interim pastor, but after a missionary trip to Mexico he decided to leave in June of 1996 after a three-month stay. Jim Bogle, a member of the Powhatan Community studying in the ministry, came to lead the church following Preacher Hargis.

Word came later in 1996 that cancer was back in Vicky's liver and lungs. Her prayer throughout her sickness has been for strength for herself and her family to bear whatever faces them, not for a cure. She was forced by her doctors to stop working and opted to undergo a life-threatening treatment at Duke Medical Center to try to defeat the cancer. Powhatan rallied behind her and a prayer vigil was held the week of February 10–14, 1997, to ask for her successful recovery and strength for her and her family. She had several out-patient visits and went in on February 10 to begin the intense treatment. Her mother stayed with her as she was undergoing treatment at the Bone Marrow Clinic as her care-giver and support person while she was in isolation.

Powhatan's Ladies Auxiliary planned a fund-raiser for Relay for Life in her behalf and for money to help with her medical costs. Around $8000 was raised in the small community from a hot dog supper, bake sale, T-shirt sale, and gospel sing that was held on February 15.

Please continue to remember Vicky Thorne Bagley, her family, and Powhatan Church in your prayers. It is our prayer that both will continue to get stronger in the service of the Lord.



Powhatan's fellowship hall during the February 15 fundraiser. The T-shirt designed and sold by the Ladies Auxiliary had an eagle on the front and Isaiah 40:31 on the back. There were baked goods galore! Sue Greene talking with Barbara Howell.



Traci Thornton helps Janet Jones put an apron with the Eagle design and verse at the February 15 fundraiser. Sue Greene is busy making change as D.E. Pounds looks over all the baked goods.

Another prayer vigil week was held from February 17 (the worst day of her treatments) until February 21, with church members gathering each night at the altar to ask for God's mercy and grace to see Vicky and her family through the trials they were facing. Preacher Bogle visited or talked with Vicky or her family to keep the church members updated on her condition.

On March 4, 1997, Vicky returned home from Duke, still very weak but with the worst of the treatment hopefully behind her. Until her white blood cell count returns to normal, she is still highly susceptible to germs and must remain careful about personal contact.

Since she has been released from Duke, Vicky has been hospitalized at Rex in Raleigh several times. She has battled low white cell counts, unexplained fevers, not being able to eat, and other hurdles in her struggle.

She was able to attend church for the first time on Easter Sunday. She sat with her family in a separate class room to be as isolated from germs as possible. What a blessing it was to see her in her Easter bonnet, back in God's house, looking wonderful!

On April 25, she attended the Johnston Country Relay for Life Walkathon and victoriously walked the first lap as a cancer survivor. The exertion was very stressful for her. She announced to her Sunday school class on Sunday, May 4, that tests showed the high doses of chemo she had undergone at Duke damaged her lungs and she is losing oxygen. She gets out of breath very easily. Hopefully, with prednizone, time, and God's healing hand, the damage will be repaired and she will be cancer-free.

Please continue to remember Vicky Thorne Bagley, her family, and Powhatan Church in your prayers. It is our prayer that both will continue to get stronger in the service of the Lord.

The Birchers — Ready to Serve

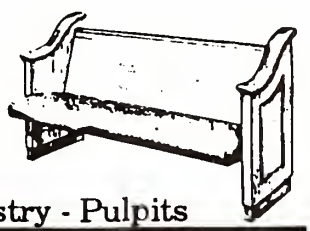


Jack and Julia Bircher, who are familiar to many Free Will Baptists, have re-emerged to once again share their faith and music for the glory of God.

Jack and Julia have many lessons to share with the young and old alike. They fell in love as collegians studying music at East Carolina University and moved as newlyweds to Lexington, SC where he taught at the Universtity of South Carolina. Jack's percussion career quickly advanced and he began to travel considerably. Julia taught piano lessons privately and managed their young family of two sons. Putting the family before their musical careers as God would want, they moved back to Cove City, NC, to the same farm on which Julia was raised. Jack exchanged sticks and mallets for dairy farming where life began at 4:00 AM and ended at 7:00 PM or later, but was able to take an active role in his son's lives. Soon after joining the dairy farm, Jack had a near-death experience when 13,800 volts of electricity blew through his body. Rehabilitation became the focus until his wounds healed. Jack then returned to farming. The Birchers were orginally formed in the mid-1980s. Sons John and Scott joined their parents as they travelled and played across eastern North Carolina. Julia played piano for her home church and continued to teach private lessons to more than 25 students. After 10 years of farming, Jack traded in the early mornings and late evenings to return to a musical profession as a middle school band director in Craven County Schools. Another five years passed and the perfect position for a Christian musician became available — a minister of music and discipleship. Julia followed him as the same church was in need of a keyboardist/pianist as well. There have been two constants in their lives, our Heavenly Father and music. Jack and Julia look forward to sharing their message and gifts with your membership.

In addition to their musical talents, the Birchers offer their talents in Choir Coaching, Praise Band Instruction, Praise Team Consultation, Marriage Seminars, Relational Seminars, and Youth and College Retreats. They may be contacted at 323 Trenton Road, Cove City, NC 28523, phone (919–638–8321).

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Centennial Celebration

Grants Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, located on Highway 55 near Seven Springs, NC, will be celebrating its one hundredth birthday on June 8, 1997.

The church is seeking pictures of the church and group pictures. Anyone who attended in the past who might have taken pictures is asked to submit the pictures for display during the centennial celebration.

Please contact the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, Route 2, Box 375, Snow Hill, NC 28580, phone 919–747–3688, or Mrs. Virginia Flora, Clerk, 3966 NC 55 E, Seven Springs, NC 28578, phone 919–658–0448, if you have any pictures or other information that would be of interest to the church during this special celebration.

Gospel Concert at the Tabernacle

The Second Edition Quartet, along with the Four in Christ Quartet, and Brian Free and Assurance, will appear in gospel concert on Saturday, June 21, 1997, 7:00 PM, at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, New Bern, NC. The church is located on the corner of Broad and George Street.

The Second Edition Quartet are the sons of the original Four in Christ Quartet, a group that is well known among gospel singing groups. The concert will be recorded. There is no charge for admission.

Second Union Sunday School Convention of the Central Conference

The Second Union Sunday School Convention of the Central Conference will meet at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Tarboro on fifth Sunday, June 29, 1997, at 3:00 PM. Mrs. Mary Dudley, president of the Sunday School Board, will speak on "The Mission and Importance of Sunday School." All Sunday school superintendents and assistants, teachers and assistant teachers, and anyone else who will, are requested to attend.

Change of Address

"My address has been changed to: 3941 NC 210, Smithfield, NC 27577 (phone 919–938–0998)." — The Rev. Edmundo Gonzalez.

Remember your "Dad" on June 15

These "Little Ones"

by C. H. Overman



Their steps are small,
These little ones
entrusted to our keeping.

Their path is long
with many curves
and uncertainties.

Their soul is innocent,
their trust complete
as they take our hand.

Their love reaches
our heart and soul
as we guide their steps.

They reach out and
we clasp their hand
for we are their "Dads."

They need us and
depend on us.
And we need them
These "Little Ones."

(Photo by TQO)

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



Executive Committee Adopts Budget

The Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists met on Tuesday, April 21, 1997. The Committee adopted a budget for 1997-98 that reflects deep cuts across the board for Convention operations. The amount of financial support for the Convention work does not permit the continuation of operations at the current level. Cuts were also made in the current budget.

The most difficult and visible change involves a change in the full-time employment of the administrative secretary. The position has been discontinued, effective May 23, 1997. The 1997-98 budget includes funding for part-time secretarial help beginning in July.

These decisions were based on finances and are not personnel-related. Michelle Fordham has served the Convention and Headquarters family well as administrative secretary, receptionist, and in many other capacities. She has worked for the Convention since May 1, 1991, and it is difficult to see her leave this position. I encourage all of you to let her know that she is appreciated and remember her and her family in prayer as she determines her future course. She will continue to work with Retirement Homes on a part-time basis.

Other major cuts include the Executive Administrator's benefits, Executive Committee expense, employee travel, and fraternal relations. The cuts were absolutely necessary for the Convention to operate in the black for 1997-98.

While the cuts are necessary, the services provided by the Convention are needed and we will need to rebuild a strong financial base to move forward. Churches are encouraged to support the Convention at the rate of $5 per active member. We encourage every church to include the Convention in her budget and to increase the amount of that gift when possible.

Will Your Church Be Included?

It is time to begin sending your photographs for inclusion in the display at the 1997 Convention. Everyone was encouraged to take pictures on Easter Sunday to be included in a display entitled, "A Day in the Life of Original Free Will Baptists — Easter 1997." Photographs should be submitted in 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" format, along with the name of the photographer, the church, and description of the photograph on a separate sheet of paper. Please do not write on the photograph(s), even on the back(s).

1997 Yearbooks Available

The *1997 Yearbook* is now available. Copies were mailed to all ministers registering at the 1996 Session of the Convention and two copies were also sent to each Original Free Will Baptist Church clerk. If any minister or clerk did not receive his or her copy, please call the Convention office at 919-746-4963.

Copies may be purchased from the Convention office or from any of the Free Will Baptists Press Bookstores for $10 each.

Convention Nominations

The following vacancies will be filled by the 1997 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists: Convention Secretary, Convention Treasurer, Executive Committee members from the Albemarle Conference, Cape Fear Conference, Pee Dee Association, and Piedmont Conference; Children's Home Board (3), Church Finance Representative (1), Cragmont Assembly Stock Representatives (3), Foreign Missions Board (1), Free Will Baptist Press Foundation Representative (1), Home Missions Board (1), Minister's Program Board (1), Mount Olive College Board of Trustees (5), Retirement Homes Board (2), Board of Trustees (1), Chaplains Commission (1), Commission of OFWB College Student Fellowships (1), Historical Commission (1), Layman's League Board (4), and the Sunday School Board (3).

If you know of someone that you would like to recommend for consideration by the Nominating Committee, please submit the person's name, the position for which you are recommending the person, the name of the church where the person is a member, the conference of the church or membership for ministers, the person's occupation, and a brief description of the qualifications and/or gifts this person would bring to the position. The recommendation must include the name of the person or group making the recommendation. The recommendation should be mailed to: Nominating Committee, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, postmarked no later than July 1, 1997.

Directory Changes

The Rev. Jeff Scarborough, 112 Buffaloe Acres Lane, Garner, NC 27529.

The Rev. Richard M. Roberts, Sr., Post Office Box 35, Morehead City, NC 28557

The Rev. Terry Dennis, 1832 Salem Road, Scranton, SC 2951-5551

Clerk of Sarecta Free Will Baptist Church, Mr. Jefferey Jones, Post Office Box 477, Kenansville, NC 28349, phone: (910) 296-1783

Clerk of Rains Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church, Mrs. Ann Radford, 1455 Rhodes Rd., Kenly, NC 27542, phone: (919) 284-2756

Pastor of New Haven Free Will Baptist Church, The Rev. Clifford Ball, 6138 Weyerhaeuser Rd, Grifton, NC 28530, Phone: 919-524-4337

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College



Beyond Survival

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Give us this day our daily bread," (Matthew 6:11).
"...man shall not live by bread alone..." (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Our Daily Bread

Some years ago while working with a senior citizen on her financial and estate planning, we made an inventory of her assets. With the inventory on the table before us, I asked: "Now, can you share with me your primary objectives?" Her instant answer was, "survival."

It has been twenty years since that evening when we sat around her kitchen table, but the intense emotions with which she said "survival" still rings loud and clear to me. Her message was, "I want to live, and whatever is required I want it used for that purpose."

At that stage of my life, the question of "survival" was not very much on my mind. I was a "middle age" person then, but my senior citizen friend introduced me to a point of thinking that I am still pondering.

Survival is indeed a priority in the lives of all of us. Our Lord recognized this truth when He taught His disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Bread is the staff of life and can rightly be interpreted to include not only food but all the other essentials for sustaining life — essentials like clothing, housing and medical care. Survival is our title to everything we own, and apart from it we own nothing.

After the essentials for our physical survival are met, however, the true test of our vision and values comes into play. This truth is illustrated in the experience of the Pilgrims who landed on the harsh shores of Plymouth Rock in the deadly winter of 1621. Their values are reflected in the quaint and classic words of an old diary:

"After God had carried us safe to New England, and we had builded our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood, rear'd convenient places for God's worship, and settled the Civil Government; One of the next things we longed for, and looked after was to advance Learning and perpetuate it to Posterity: dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the Churches, when our Ministers shall lie in the Dust. And as we were thinking and consulting how to effect this great Work; it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard (a godly Gentleman, and a lover of Learning, there living amongst us)."

Let us note the priorities of these Pilgrims:

- Survival — houses and necessaries for our livelihood;
- Churches — places to worship God;
- Government — to assure law, order and security; and
- Education — for the perpetuation of their Christian faith.

Not By Bread Alone

I can think of only one question more important than survival, and that is "Survival for what?" It is not enough to just live; for life to have meaning, it must have purpose. More than three thousand years ago, Moses told those who had survived the bleak and bitter experience of years in the desert, "that people need more than food to live — they need every word that the Lord has spoken," (Deuteronomy 8:3, *The Holy Bible Contemporary English Version*, American Bible Society).

For the most part, we Americans take survival for granted. Although there is poverty throughout our land, most of us are assured of food, protection from the elements of the weather and reasonable health care. But beyond survival, what is our vision of life and what are our values? How far beyond ourselves do our vision and values reach? Our answer is the true test of the quality of persons we are.

There is a Jewish legend which tells the story of a rich but lonely man who went to visit his rabbi. After listening to the man discuss his wealth but how few friends he had, the rabbi led him to a window and asked, "What do you see?" The man answered, "I see people." Then the rabbi led him to a mirror and asked, "What do you see now?" The man answered, "I see myself." The rabbi then said, "Behold, in both the window and the mirror there is glass. But the mirror is covered with a little silver. When the silver is added, then you cease to see others and see only yourself."

History teaches us that Moses and Jesus were right — we do not live by bread alone. Beyond the requirements for survival, there is an opportunity to add meaning and purpose to life by what we do for others. On the wall of Pasadena City College in California there is a quotation attributed to the great educator, Horace Mann:

"Be ashamed to die
until you have won some victory for mankind."(2td. in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*)

1997 (Vol. 2, No. 8) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Harold Kushner. *When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough*. New York: Pocket Books, 1986.

Introduction

Is it true that one of the greatest modern dilemmas is a lack of true contentment? Do most people feel an emptiness in their lives? Harold Kushner admits: "Like so many people, I had become very good at certain aspects of my work, but at the cost of distorting my personality. My family, my own sense of wholeness had paid the price, but society at large was so appreciative of the imbalance that I managed not to notice what I was doing. Their applause, their words of praise and appreciation drowned out the still, small voice inside of me which told me that I was leaving something out" (23).

What was Harold Kushner leaving out?

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Why did the sages who fixed the canon include the Book of Ecclesiastes? After all, the writer Ecclesiastes appears to be old and cynical, tired and skeptical. His voice is even one of futility, "Utter futility, all is futility" (Ecclesiastes 1:1).

Harold Kushner began studying the voice of Ecclesiastes. What did he find? He notes that Ecclesiastes tells us something about himself. In his youth, Ecclesiastes made money, multiplied his possessions, built houses (38). He enjoyed sensual pleasures. Then he began to study. In middle age he became religious. As he tried one road after another, he began to realize all roads lead to a dead end.

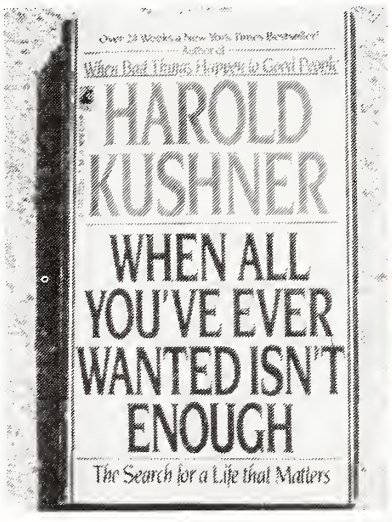
Is there any path that does not lead to a dead end?

The Answer of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes asked, "What makes my life matter? What makes it more than a passing phenomenon, not worth noticing while I am alive and destined to be forgotten as soon as I am dead?" (178.) Ecclesiastes answered himself by valuing the ordinary moments, enjoying the bread, the wind, the life itself.

The meaning of life becomes life itself.

The fact that life does not last forever demands from us a fuller participation in that life. Kushner reminds us "that the world is full of good and beautiful things, flowers and sunsets and autumn landscapes and good company to share them with, but that we have to enjoy them right away because they will not last" (190).

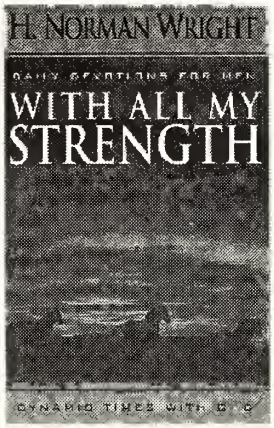


Conclusion

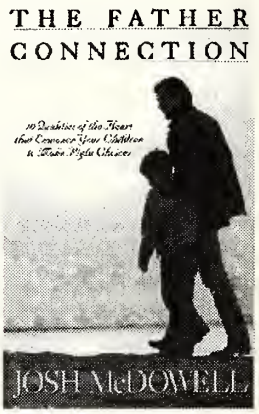
How then is life of meaning to be achieved? Perhaps the voice of Ecclesiastes shifts us from looking for those exaggerated, great, immortal deeds to the daily little deeds. Kushner insists that our "challenge is to find something truly human to do every day of our lives" (162).

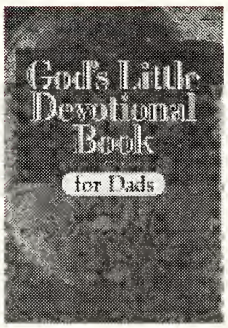
When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough **is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson**

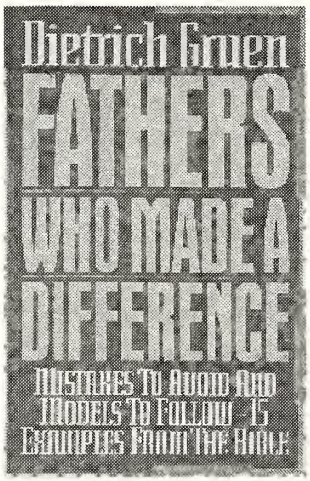
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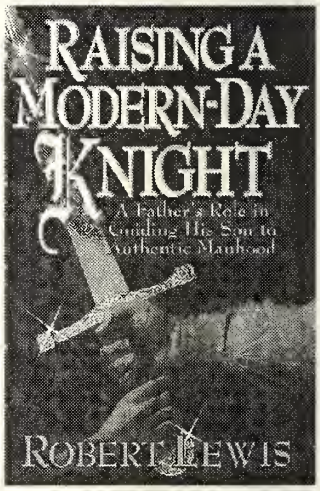
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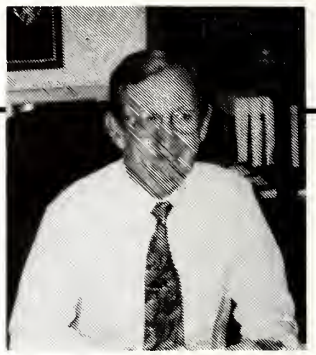
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"This is the Purpose"

. . . . . .

The Ministerial Code of Ethics Part II

Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

Liberty: The Will of the People

Interwoven in the fabric of American history is the thread of liberty. Its beginning was not on the shores of the New World, but in the hearts of those who fled their own lands in the live-or-die desire to be free, to experience freedom from bondage and constraint. The human spirit, they knew, should not and could not be bound by the decrees of a monarch. The innate desire to freely express one's opinion, the right to freely inform the populace, and the deep-rooted conviction that one should worship God according to the dictates of his/her own conscience, thrust our forefathers into the unknown. So strong was their desire that little thought was given to the perils of the oceans and the new wilderness.

Hardships and suffering were realities as these early settlers braved the New World. One group of colonists disappeared somewhere along North Carolina's shores. Although Jamestown became America's first permanent settlement, its people experienced disease, starvation, and the loneliness of separation from friends and relatives left behind. In spite of the struggles, they secceeded and others came. Settlements sprang up along the shores and colonies were established. Nothing deterred the push and desire to be free.

Before coming ashore at Plymouth, the Pilgrims aboard the *Mayflower* (41 of them) signed the first agreement for self-government, known as the *Mayflower Compact*, in 1620. In 1939 the Connecticut Colony adopted its *Fundamental Orders* calling for government based on the will of the people. The struggle for Liberty never waned. Instead, it grew into a mighty torrent of determination and ultimately burst forth in the soul-stirring *Declaration*:

"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Law of Nature and Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness..."

Those who signed represented the thirteen colonies, and with their signing they expressed their willingness to lose all for the sake of liberty. With little thought concerning their own safety, they expressed their grievances against the Mother Country, pledging "...to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

As with all generations, these early patriots and framers of the Constitution did not always adhere to their own principles of liberty. So strict were the beliefs and practices of the Puritans, that they restricted the very freedoms they advocated. Later, the practice of slavery defied the very principle of equality stated in the *Declaration of Independence*. Yet, in spite of these and other inconsistencies, America's existence hinges on the firm resolve that this Republic is and must remain a citadel of liberty and justice for all. That's the reason our shores beckon those from other lands; that's the reason thousands have given their lives in defense of this great land — "...the land of the free and the home of the brave." — Francis Scott Key.

Our Sunday School Literature

Beginning with the Summer quarter (June – August, 1997), Sunday schools using literature published by the Free Will Baptist Press have noted graphic changes in some of our quarterlies. For years our quarterlies have remained basically the same; therefore, we determined that some change was overdue. Future quarterlies will carry additional changes in appearance and layout. For instance, *The Advanced Quarterly* for the Fall will return to two printed columns instead of one. We are also anticipating other improvements that will enhance the overall quality and appearance of our literature.

Which Should It Be?

Most ministers are referred to as "Reverend." It is the feeling of some, however, that the term is not the most appropriate since the word itself is only used one time in the Scriptures and that in reference to God (see Psalm 111:9).

Another factor concerning the term is whether to abbreviate it or not. Generally, our policy has been to abbreviate it thusly: The Rev. John Doe, although we have been inconsistent in doing so. *The Gregg Reference Manual*, published by McGraw-Hill, Sixth Edition, states, "Do not abbreviate Reverend or Honorable when these words are preceded by *the*"; however, when used informally the abbreviation is correct. Now we have to decide whether it should be used formally or informally. I wonder what our readers think.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

August is Convention Promotion Month

July is Christian Education Month

Let Freedom Ring

The Rev. Mark Hogan, Pastor
Bethany Original Free Will Baptist Church

In recent years we have witnessed the liberation of many of the oppressed. Walls of oppression have fallen. Political structures of tyranny have been dismantled. Underground churches have been able to come to the surface. We can be proud that America leads the way in securing freedom for all peoples, and is still known as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Yet, our joy is mixed with sorrow. While many have broken free of the shackles of bondage, many of our own countrymen are still bound. We are not bound by a political bondage, but by a personal bondage. Many today are bound by lust. Each month eighteen million American men purchase one or more pornographic magazines. Many are bound by liquor. The Surgeon General states that teenage drinking is "out of control." Statistics show that 20.7 million middle and high school students drink alcohol at least once a week. This affects all age groups. A 1993 report suggests that elderly alcoholics cost taxpayers $233 million in hospitalization fees for those 65 or older. Many are bound by luxury. Two women were talking after the holidays. One asked, "How was your Christmas?" The other replied, "It was the best Christmas we ever charged." Many today are caught in the revolving door of debt. We are told our national debt may reach $20 trillion by the year 2000. David Hansen said, "The essence of life today is not having — it is having to have." These are all just symptoms of the bondage of sin.

The ultimate solution to the bondage problem in our world is not revolution but regeneration. Only Christ can break the shackles of sin. The Apostle Paul addresses this in his letter to the Galatians.

The Call of Christ is a call to liberty. Paul said, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty,..." (Galatians 5:13). Jesus proclaimed, "...the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). No longer would men be in bondage to sin, self, and the sacrificial system. In Christ Jesus there is true freedom. Freedom from the condemning guilt of sin (Romans 8:1). Freedom from the captivity of the grip of sin (Romans 6:18). There is also freedom from the continual grind of the sacrificial system (Hebrews 9:11–15, 28). No longer do we labor under the weight of our own efforts at being righteous. The ground of freedom is the finished work of Christ upon Calvary's Cross. One famous preacher was asked the difference between Christianity and the other world religions. He said the difference is two letters, N & E. Other religions can be summed up by the little word, "do." Christianity can be summed up by the word "done." It isn't what I do but what Christ has done that sets me free. Freedom is always a costly gift. It cost our Father in Heaven His only begotten son. Rejoice in the freedom this season of the year.

The call of Christ is a call to responsibility. While some in the church lean toward legalism, yet others lapse into license. They reason, if I am free then that means there can be no restraint. This kind of reasoning traps us again in the cycle of sin. Paul says, "...only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh,..." (Galatians 5:13). The word occasion in this verse refers to a base of operation in your life. Do not use your Christian liberty as a springboard from which to sin. The religious freedom in the former Soviet Union has created both opportunities and problems. While the church is preaching the gospel, many cults are preaching their perversion of the gospel. Do we suggest that they return to their previous bondage? Certainly not. Nor do we suggest that Christians surrender their liberty; however, with liberty comes responsibility.

The question is: how does the Christian enjoy and not abuse his freedom? The guiding principle in the Scriptures is love. Paul says, "...but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13). When one focuses on service and the Saviour rather than self, a right balance may be maintained. The

In Christ Jesus there is true freedom. Freedom from the condemning guilt of sin (Romans 8:1). Freedom from the captivity of the grip of sin (Romans 6:18). There is also freedom from the continual grind of the sacrificial system (Hebrews 9:11–15, 28).



Let Freedom Ring Cont....

twenty-first Chapter of Exodus pictures a slave who willingly becomes the life-long servant of his master. The servant's ear is bored through with an awl to show his affection for his master. So, too, the world must see our love for God by our love for others. Isaac Watts said, "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all" Someone has said, "Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and do as you please. For if you love God you will want to do what pleases Him."

It may be argued that the idea of freedom in our country has been abused. Unlimited freedom for one group limits the freedom for another. Let us never forget the words of that champion of freedom for all men. On April 30, 1863, Abraham Lincoln said, "We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us." He understood that our national freedom was a freedom under God. Our personal freedom is also a freedom under God. As Dr. Peter Marshall prayed before the U.S. Senate, "Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved, but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Make us to see that liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right."

As we celebrate our national freedom, let us celebrate our spiritual freedom in Christ. Let freedom ring in the halls of justice as well as the hearts of the just.

"This is the Purpose..."

Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

"This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it?..." (Isaiah 14:26–27).

"The quiet conversion of one sinner after another, under the ordinary ministry of the gospel must always be regarded with feelings of satisfaction and gratitude... but a periodical manifestation of the simultaneous conversion of thousands is also desired, because of its adaptation to afford a visible and impressive demonstration that God has made that same Jesus who was rejected and crucified, both Lord and Christ" (William Reid).

Revival always brings with it a return to apostolic Christianity, proclaimed by apostolic preaching, with its dynamic effects on both saints and sinners.

God has always worked by means of revivals from time to time among His people as evidenced in both the Old and New Testaments. His purposes have progressed by sudden and mighty movements of the Spirit. One writer of an earlier generation states: "The world of mankind has not advanced by evolution, but by revolution; that is by violent upheavals of society. Many changes have taken place rapidly, changes that make the ordinary events of history appear commonplace by contrast. Eden, the Flood, the Exodus period and the Captivity era are Old Testament illustrations of these revolutionary epochs, while Pentecost is the conspicuous New Testament example. Our Christian era is marked by many such times of religious transformation. The Renaissance and Protestant Reformation in the fifteenth century changed the whole thought and life of Europe. Modern history dates from them" (P.V. Jennes).

One may ask "Why has God chosen to work in this way? Would it not be more satisfactory for the work of God to progress quietly and steadily, without the stimulus of such excitement and sometimes upheaval as are produced in seasons of revival?" But who are we to justify or explain the ways of God before His people? Currently, thousands in South America are being brought to Christ, as well as some other points of this planet. Let us rejoice that God is moving in His sovereign will and purpose to bring the lost to salvation.

Revival as a method of God's working has been used in the past, and currently, as a part of His divine strategy to counteract spiritual decline, to create spiritual momentum, and to reach out to the saints and the sinners. Revival is essentially a manifestation of God, and always has the stamp of His sovereignty upon it. Revival is divine intervention in the normal course of spiritual things. It is God revealing Himself to man in fearful holiness and irresistible power. It is such a manifest working of God that human personalities are overshadowed, and human programs often bypassed or completely abandoned. When God comes upon the scene in true revival, man retires into the background because God has taken the field. It is the Lord making bare His holy arm, and working in extraordinary power

to draw both saint and sinner to Himself as He pours out His Spirit upon humanity and the name of Jesus is lifted and magnified upon human lips!

Peter declared on that memorable day of Pentecost, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:16–17). This wonderful promise relates then to a period of time, "in the last days," not just on the day of Pentecost. Peter's words were an explanation of that current event, shaking the pagan world to its very foundations, but it is also a work for the church today. All of the years of the church's history have been "in the last days," and thus it has pleased the Lord down those years at special times and seasons to fulfill these words of Joel again and again.

In Acts 10:45 the remarkable event at Caesarea is described by Luke as an outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit as the Gospel is being preached unto them. Paul, in writing to Titus, (3:5–6), using the same word as did Peter when quoting Joel: "The Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly."

True revivals have been marked by powerful and often widespread outpourings of the Spirit, sometimes to the point that the cries for mercy from prostrate sinners was greater than the voice of the preacher. That great missionary to the Indians, David Brainerd, recorded the beginning of wonderful movement among the American Indian in 1745: "The power of God seemed to descend upon the assembly 'like a rush mighty wind' and with an astonishing energy bore down all before it. I stood amazed at the influence that seized the audience almost universally, and could compare it to nothing more aptly that the irresistible force of a mighty torrent... almost all persons of all ages were bowed down with concern together, and scarce one was able to withstand the shock of this surprising operation."

Revival is ultimately the work of a holy, loving, omnipotent God who visits His people at a particular time, in a particular place to proclaim His purpose and events that lift up the cross and a crucified Saviour. Revival always brings with it a return to apostolic Christianity, proclaimed by apostolic preaching, with its dynamic effects on both saints and sinners!

The Ministerial

— by the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow

Part Two of Two

This message was preached at last year's Ministers' Conference at Cragmont Assembly

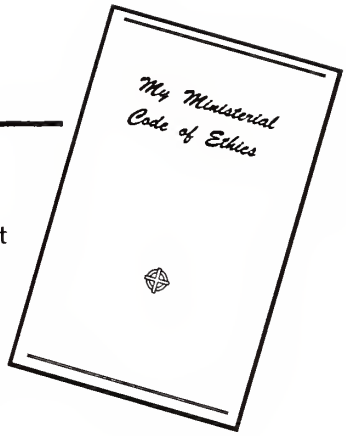
There was some strong opposition to it. One was that the Conference was starting out on a new trail to assign ministers. It was said that the Conference, and especially Dennis Alexander and myself want to get where they can tell a church who to hire as pastor. One man who came to us from a distant State and was very popular in our State, got up on the Union Meeting floor, and said that he had read it carefully and made a real study of it. He said, "I read in there that if I get ready to change a tire on my car, I've got to go put a tuxedo on and come back and change the tire." He waxed strong, and got several "amen's" with that.

So we've had different things at different times. Another said, "I like it pretty good, but if I follow that Code of Ethics, I can't 'cut up' in the Spirit!" I do not yet know what he meant. It was also said, "Well, if we subscribe to the Code of Ethics, we're going to do away with God's calling men."

The real purpose in mind was to give to the denomination a refined pattern of Christian likeness, of Christ-likeness. That was the whole purpose. It wasn't to discipline. It was to give the denomination a ministry that was refined and refreshed in the things of the Lord, remembering that we were laborers together, remember that God was the Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself and assigning us the ministry of reconciliation. And that is our assignment, and that was the purpose of the Code of Ethics.

I found that its very difficult to trace its history. I called ten different people and I got help from one or two. Its beginning was in the Central Conference. We had men in the Central Conference at that time who said that our standard for ordination was too high, they didn't want to do this. They would run into this conference and that, and then they would come back. We talked about a unified way of ordaining, and decided that was not what our forefathers had in mind; but each Conference ought to have its distinct way of ordaining. But this

Code of Ethics



was a way, we thought, to "harmonize" across the State by a willingness to sign a standard that would give to us an objective and a purpose of life. This Code of Ethics has been or is to be used, not as a law of the Medes and Persians, but as a direction to bring us together and unite us together in the wonders of His love and in the purpose of His fulfilling. The Code of Ethics was born out of a desire to confirm Christianity in a more unified manner as it relates to our ministry, to confirm our unity in becoming that living stone He would have us to be. It was given to us to help us see the importance of confirming our lives and reducing our lives so that we might be able to lay aside the charms of the world and the egotism of personal attainment and come to that unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God.

The Code of Ethics was given unto us to give strength to our ministry, that we might show forth in the world that we are willing to lay aside everything and come to that place where we accept the assignment of God and respond to that assignment by harmonizing our lives together in Christ.

Then again, not only does the Code of Ethics bring us where we see the importance of studying the Word, the water of the Word that washes away all selfishness, hatred, indifference, and contrariness, it brings us to that cleansing place where we can be vessels fit for the Master's use.

The Code of Ethics is given to us to help us establish our lives for Christ, for each other, for the Church, and for the lost world. If you look at the Code of Ethics carefully, you will conclude, "I'm going to make myself a worthy example. I'm going to so live that my life will show forth the pattern of Christian grace." I remember my daddy used to send me up to a neighbor's house to get a pattern to cut a cart shaft. I went and got that pattern and it was thin — it wasn't as thick as the cart shaft, but it was like it. Daddy laid it on there, you know, and he marked him one out. He took that old handsaw and cut that cart shaft. In cutting it he forgot to mark where you put the tongue, and he got it cut and said, "The tongue is missing." Without a tongue the horse can't pull the cart."

As we searched the Code of Ethics, we may find we missed the tongue, and therefore we can't fulfill the purpose. Or, we may find we need to change. As I said, the Code of Ethics is to help us confirm our unity in the promotion of the pattern of Christ. Now, if you have a copy look on page 3. Look at Number 4, which says, "I will be courteous to (any) predecessor of mine who returns to the field, so long as he does not meddle in affairs."

Now, I think that we should be courteous whether he meddles or not. Just because he is discourteous, doesn't excuse my being discourteous. I think that's one thing we need to look at afresh. The Code of Ethics is a man-made instrument. It's not Biblical truth, but it seeks to prepare us in a more efficient manner to carry out the Biblical truth of bringing the world to be like Christ — being a pattern out there wherever we go, a pattern of our Lord whom we profess to love and serve. And I think if we notice this, it will have a harmonious effect upon us as ministers. We'll be more courteous to each other and more kind to those we serve. And more critical of "me and myself."

May the Lord continue to cause His face to shine upon us. May He so instill in our lives a unity of love and compassion until we shall ever look for that better way.

What have I gotten but what I received?

Grace hath bestowed it, since I believed.

Boasting excluded, pride I abase.

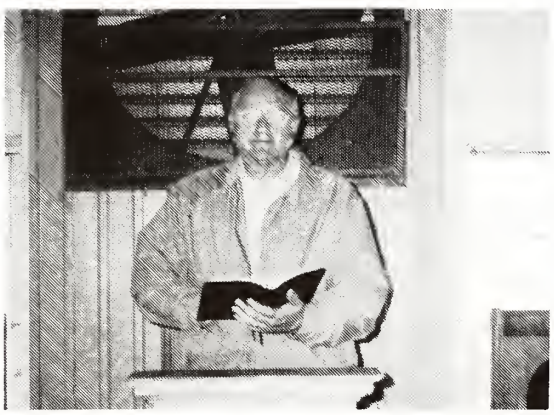
I'm only a sinner, saved by His marvelous grace.

New Layman's League Advisor

Recently the Reverend Jack Weathersby of Saints Delight Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County became the new Layman's League advisor. Who is this man? Rev. Jack Weathersby is a very dedicated Christian servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Before he became a pastor, Jack was a very dedicated Layman in the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church. He believed in promoting the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus he believes in the work of the Layman's League because this is the primary purpose of the Layman's League. Jack is a very talented man. He loves to sing and play wonderful hymns of praise on his guitar. There are few songs Jack doesn't know. Ask the men who attended the Spiritual Life Retreat, especially on Friday night. And Jack believes in God's Holy Word and wants to share its plan of salvation with everybody he meets.

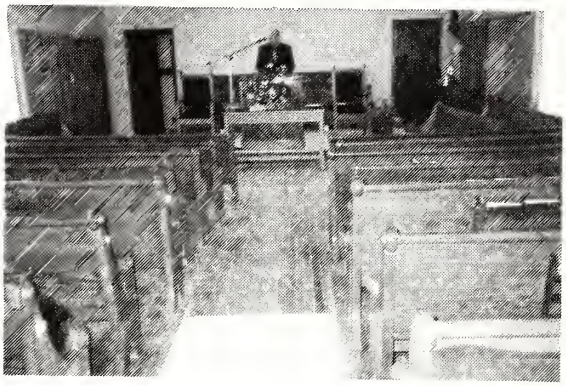
The Layman's League of the Original Free Will Baptist Church is proud to have Jack for an advisor and looks forward to working with him. May God richly bless Jack and his family as we all strive to work together for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

God does answer prayers and bestows many blessings on His people. Read about the following events taking place at Saints Delight FWB Church in Greene County and see why Jack Weathersby is always smiling. He is a man who is dedicated to God, his family, his church, and his friends.



Jack Weathersby, the new advisor to the Layman's League

Saint's Delight Free Will Baptist Church, Greene County



Starting of remodeling March 1997.

God works in mysterious ways, for when we were called to Saint's Delight FWB Church in July 1993, we had no idea that my wife's grandparents had attended there. I have no record to verify it, but I believe her grandparents were charter members of Saint's Delight, which was established 130 years ago. When it became neccessary to raise the floor, that had dropped, we soon discovered that the church had been built over stumps.

We had no idea what God wanted us to do except to lead His flock. As we started our ministry, we listened and realized that the people wanted more leadership to help improve the church building and its services. Starting with ten to twelve people for church services, we knew whatever we did God had to be the Author of it.

As we went to the Lord for guidance He fulfilled each need and it has not stopped yet. We started with the donations of song books, paint and supplies to paint the outside and inside class rooms of the church. The donations from outside the church came from believers of God, whom He sent to us. Each project we started, including raising the floor, a new roof, and a steeple for the top of the church, was to glorify God. God never stopped half way. He kept filling our needs by sending His people to fulfill His mission for renovation of His temple.

They were people with knowledge of carpentry, electricity, painting, movers, cleaners, sheetrockers, and lawn care takers. Each one gave a hundred percent of themselves, each time it was needed. Now we are believing and praying for new sanctuary windows and the addition of a larger fellowship hall. We have no doubt that this need will also be met by our Lord. We



Dedication May 19, 1997. Harold Humbles and the Rev. Jack Weathersby

pray that each of you will take time to thank God, along with us, for His blessings to us. Pray that we might keep growing. We now have an average attendance of 55 but most of all we want to continue to fulfill His needs and not our own.

To the people of Saint's Delight church, we say thank you for allowing us to help in accomplishing what God wanted done, for your support, lifting us up in prayer and being our friends. We thank God for Saint's Delight Church where we can worship, work, fellowship, and pray together in a spirit of unity. But most of all, we thank Him for sending you, for you — His children make the church. All of us must remember that God deserves 100% and that He will pour out His blessing abundantly upon those who serve Him.

On May 18, 1997, we re-dedicated the Chapel back to the Lord. We wish you could have been there. To those who were, we say thank you for attending this very wonderful occasion with us and making it a day that we will remember always. We invite any and all to come visit us and see what God has done and is continuing to do at Saint's Delight Free Will Baptist Church.



The Rev. and Mrs. Weathersby, dedication 1997 reception.

Attention: Promotional Committee

You have a meeting on July 3, 1997 at the Free Will Baptist Headquarters in Ayden, which is located at the Free Will Baptist Press Building. The meeting starts at 7:30. Please come and bring your ideas about promoting God's work here on this earth. May God richly bless you!

Camp Vandemere Our Family Enrichment Center

Everybody Needs God

by Julia Pate Gaskins

There was a boy in prison who was trying to establish a good reason so that he could be paroled in two years. He knew that only through prayer and God's help could he possibly stick out these last two years, and then he would need God's help to start a new life after he left prison.

Who doesn't need God's help? Which one of us doesn't have moments of discouragement and problems that we can face only with God's help?

At Camp Vandemere we have to depend on God's help everyday. But He is always there for us. He has surely sent us the help we needed by sending many of you to help us. He has also sent financial help through many of you.

Sometimes we have problems to face that only God can help us through. A woman had been left a widow with a fifteen-year-old daughter. Another woman was trying to comfort her. "I know just how you feel," she said. "Fifteen years ago John died, leaving me with three growing children. After we had come home from the funeral I said to the children, 'you have lost your earthly father. Now we will have to depend on our Heavenly Father more than ever before.' And He has never failed us."

We must hope and trust in God. We sometimes face problems, and there seems to be no solution. We have a tendency to get frantic and anxious. We try, on our own, to solve the problems. After everything else has failed, we finally pray and ask God's help. Then we see things begin to turn around, and then a full solution comes. God has answered our prayers.

Isn't God good? He can help us. In fact, He wants to help us. He would help us more if we would ask more. He never pushes in, but He stands ready to help when we let Him.

God has proven to us at Camp Vandemere that He will supply our needs. He has proven that everybody needs Him. We trusted, and He came through in a mighty way.

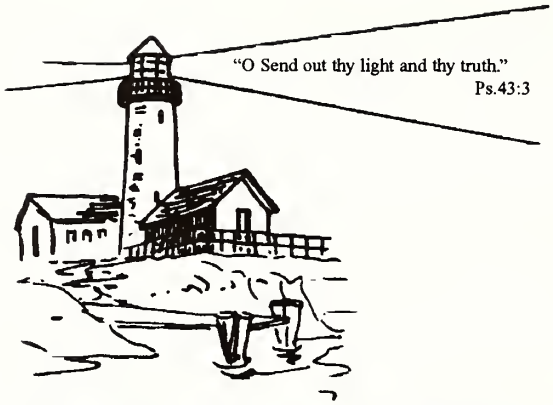
It has been said that we should work as if everything depends on us, and we should pray as if everything depends on God.

God can make us adequate to meet whatever problems or perplexities that we meet each day. We may lose our home, our wealth, or our possessions, but in Christ we have "a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Everybody needs God. Every day in every way we need Him and He is here for us.

God has blessed us so greatly at Camp Vandemere. All of our Free Will Baptist people have also been a blessing. As we all continue to work together, Camp Vandemere will continue to grow, and be a shinning witness for God. All of us need to carry our burdens to Him because He cares.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).



CAMP VANDEMERE'S

FIRST ANNUAL SINGIN' BY THE RIVER

FEATURING:



THE FOUR IN CHRIST QUARTET
NEW BERN, N.C. 919-637-3589

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 - 10:00a.m. UNTIL

• A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED •

• ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE CAMP TO HELP WITH RESTORATIONS FROM LAST YEARS STORMS •

★ RAIN OR SHINE ★
UNDER
"THE BIG TENT"

★ BRING YOUR FISHIN' POLES & LAWN CHAIRS ★

★ HOT DOGS, DRINKS, SNACKS, HAMBURGERS AND OTHER GOODIES WILL BE AVAILABLE ★

FEATURING:



COVENANT
NEW BERN, N.C. 919-633-2683



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NEW BERN, N.C. 919-637-3859

★ WORSHIP, FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY ★

★ ALL ARE WELCOME ★

★ BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR, BRING YOUR FRIEND ★

★ GOOD OLE' GOSPEL SINGIN' ★





NEW HORIZON QUARTET
WASHINGTON, N.C. 919-946-2298
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Camp Vandemere is a Christian family campground, owned by the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptist of North Carolina. Our mission is to reach as many people for the Lord as possible.We invite and encourage **ALL** of you to visit us.

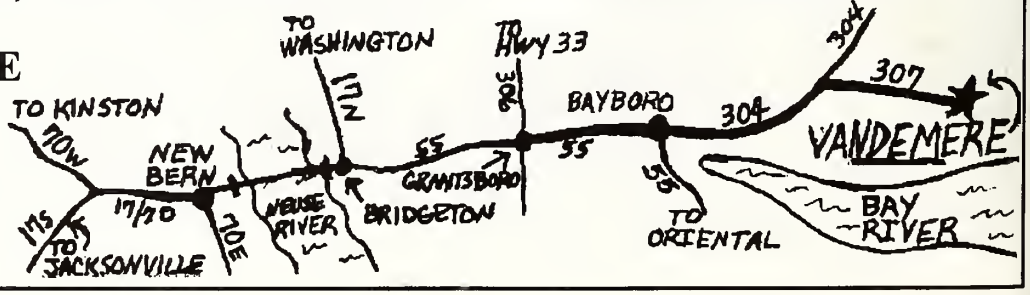


TRINITY
NEW BERN, N.C. 919-633-4368

For more Information call: 919-633-1185: 919-637-0231: 919-745-3171: 919-637-4949

FROM NEW BERN / BRIDGETON / TAKE 55 EAST TO BAYBORO, THEN 304 TO 307 TO VANDEMERE, N.C.

CAMP VANDEMERE
P.O. BOX 188
VANDEMERE, N.C.
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Mount Olive College

Class of 1997: Largest Ever — 372 Graduate

With sunny skies and gusty winds outside, inside 372 students breezed across the stage in caps and gowns as cameras flashed to accept diplomas as the newest graduates of Mount Olive College — the Class of 1997!

This year's class was the College's largest ever with 141 more graduates than last year. Reasons for the increase were healthy enrollments at each of the College's four locations and the Wilmington campus, which opened in October 1995, graduating students for the first time.

The distribution of graduates by location was: 75 from the Mount Olive campus traditional program, 63 from the Mount Olive campus evening program, 100 from the College's program at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, 83 from the New Bern campus, and 51 from the Wilmington campus.

Of the 372 degrees conferred, 312 were the Bachelor of Science, 43 were the Bachelor of Applied Science, 10 were the Associate in Science, and seven were the Bachelor of Arts.

Because of the large number of graduates, graduation was conducted in two sessions. Splitting the graduation into two sessions was necessary to enable the graduates to invite guests without imposing any limits. In the future, the College will hold two graduations a year — one in December and one in May.

In the morning session 197 students graduated from the Mount Olive campus traditional program, the Criminal Justice for Professionals program, and the Seymour Johnson AFB program. The afternoon ceremony was for 175 students graduating from the Management & Organizational Development programs at New Bern, Wilmington, and Mount Olive's evening college.

Dr. A. Hope Williams was the speaker at both ceremonies. She is president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.



Dr. A. Hope Williams speaking at MOC's 43rd Graduation Exercises on May 10.

Four academic awards were presented. In the morning, Candace Tefertiller of Big Piney, Wyoming, received the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Academic Excellence. Suzanne Blackburn of Seven Springs received the Martin Award for having the highest academic average, and Adrienne Bryan of Newton Grove was presented the Perret Award as the rising junior with the highest grade point average.

In the afternoon, Alicia Swinson Purifoy of New Bern was presented the first Lora W. and Maurice H. King Award honoring the most outstanding nontraditional student. And Dr. Sharon E. Carter received the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dr. Carter is a professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies.

"This is a day of great celebration of your accomplishments and recognition of the start of a new phase in your life," Dr. Williams told the graduates.

In her remarks, Williams reminded the graduates to recognize the many people who helped them through their college work, naming parents, sometimes grandparents, husbands and wives, for some the Air Force, staff and faculty, and the many people who provide financial support to the Mount Olive College.

"Now, it's payback time," Williams said. "It is time to pay back not just through student loans, but in community service and to those who helped you be successful.

"I hope that during your years at Mount Olive, you became excited about learning," she said. "The latest

Cont. on next page...



Graduates celebrate moments after the recessional at College Hall. These graduates are from the College's degree-completion program in New Bern.

Class of 1997: Largest Ever... Cont...

figures predict the individuals may change jobs as many as seven times during a work life."

Continuing, Williams said that many jobs the graduates will hold have not even been invented yet, citing "webmaster" as an example.

"You will need additional education from your company or at a college or university to maintain your job or move into another one," Williams said. "We talk about life-long learning now, and that is what you can expect."

Concluding, Williams said that by being successful at Mount Olive College, the graduates had demonstrated the willpower and determination to be successful and happy in the future.

The ceremonies concluded with singing the *Alma Mater*, the benediction, and recessional.



Dr. Sharon E. Carter (left) received the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Carter is congratulated by Ms. Sonya F. McCoy, last year's recipient.



Dr. Billy R. Yawn, speaker at MOC's commencement worship service and pastor of Union Grove FWB Church, stands with graduate Nola Pittman Claiborne, her daughter, Morgan Claiborne, her niece, Emily Pittman, and her parents, Athalene and George Pittman.

Baseball and Softball Teams Are Champs



Dr. J. William Byrd congratulates Michael Wiggs, a senior on the 1997 Trojan baseball team who was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. In addition to being a four-year starter at shortstop, Michael was named to the CVAC All Conference Team and honored as MOC's Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He is an outstanding student as well as an outstanding athlete.

In baseball, Mount Olive College might be counting this year's team as the College's best ever for years to come.

With a 38–10 record, this year's team won the Carolinas–Virginia Athletic Conference regular season title and the league's tournament championship.

Again, the team was invited to the NCAA Division South Atlantic Regional Tournament for the second straight year, only then losing to Georgia College and Kennesaw State College before closing down its successful season.

Subsequently, two players — pitcher Curtis Whitley and shortstop Michael Wiggs — got picked up by major league baseball teams. Whitley, from Goldsboro, was drafted in the fourth round by the Chicago White Sox, Wiggs, a Free Will Baptist originally from Wilson, was drafted in the 26th round by the Pittsburge Pirates.

Team members captured a slew of honors. Sophomore catcher Scott McKee was named CVAC Player of the Year. Others named to the All Conference Team were: Mike Neill, Phillip Smith, Paul Allegra, Michael Wiggs, Chad Holland, and Curtis Whitley.

And Coach Carl Lancaster was named the league's Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

In addition to Michael Wiggs from Stony Creek FWB Church in Wayne County, Brad Burrus from Grimsley FWB Church in Greene County and Jason Spell from Robert's Grove FWB Church in Sampson County, contributed hugely to the team's fifth place national ranking for much of the season.

In softball, the women captured their first ever CVAC title with an overall record of 31–23 and a conference record of

Freshmen Orientation Scheduled for July 21

Time slows for no one! We just celebrated graduation, yet it is time to look ahead. Mount Olive College will hold its orientation on Saturday, July 21, to help prepare entering freshmen for a new school year and a new environment. The day begins at 8:30 AM and runs to about 5 PM.

As the Class of 2001 is shaping up on the college rolls, it's time to get them in here and point them in the right direction — literally and figuratively.

Two parallel programs will be conduction — one for students and one for parents.

The student schedule for the day introduces students to the advising program and gets them thinking about the courses and meeting requirements in their major field of study and ultimately for their degree. Students will actually sit with faculty advisors and get used to the process of working with faculty to meet personal as well as institutional requirements.

Group discussions are also aimed at helping students make certain social adjustments to college life. These discussions focus on study habits and making the right decisions in the face of new-found freedoms. Some students adjust very well and some need direction. Orientation familiarizes new students with available programs and service.

The day also provides an opportunity for placement tests in language students and getting ID cards made.

The parents' schedule provides much of the same information but from the perspective of a parent.

Parents learn about academic policies, facilities, and services available to their sons and daughters. They tour the campus and discuss the importance of "letting go" as necessary in their near-adult child's development. In this respect, going to college is sometimes as much as an adjustment for some parents as it for the students.

Also, parents are provided with options to talk more about financial aid, payment options, and other business matters concerning college.

If you have a student in your family heading to Mount Olive College in the fall or if you are still trying to decide and just want to look around, coming to Mount Olive College on Saturday, July 21, might prove to be very helpful! Consider this to be an invitation! Call the Admission Office (800) 653–0854 or (919) 658–7164 for information or a reservation. *There is always room for a few more.*

Baseball and Softball Teams Are Champs

16–2. The young team won 15 of their last 18 games, including a run of 10 straight wins.

Four Mount Olive players — Michelle Matthews, Heather Parker, Jennifer Ellis, and Wendi Acey — were named to the All Conference Team. While the men's baseball team is losing seven key seniors, the women's entire roster returns next season. Yes!

The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award

To: Free Will Baptist Lay Leaders

From: K. David Hines, Chair, Pastor's Award Selection Committee

Subject: Nomination for the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award

In recognition of the outstanding service rendered by many Free Will Baptist pastors, Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina, has established the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award through Mount Olive College. The purpose of this award is to recognize a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community, and denomination. Emphasis is to be upon pastoral services and may include bi-vocational pastors who serve small churches. The award is to be used by the recipient to strengthen and enrich his pastoral ministry. The recipient is to provide a written report within one year of being recognized of how the funds benefited his pastoral ministry.

Originally from the Union Grove Church near Nahunta, Dr. Morris is providing a $1,000 award as a memorial to the late Elder P. T. Lucas, Dr. Morris' great-grandfather. Elder Lucas, a Free Will Baptist minister early in this century, is remembered for his pastoral services. In sponsoring this award, Dr. Morris is seeking to strengthen and support the pastoral ministry.

The recipient will be selected from those nominated by their churches according to the following criteria:

1. **Pastoral Leadership and Service.** This category, which will receive the greatest weighing in the evaluation, includes effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development;
2. **Denominational Service,** including service to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries; and
3. **Community Service,** including services such as participation in local community ministries and services as a volunteer chaplain.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

If you feel that your pastor has excelled in these areas, your church is encouraged to nominate him for this award by completing the following information sheet and attaching a letter of recommendation. Both the information sheet and the letter must be signed by the clerk of your church and the deacon chairman. To be considered for the 1996 award, nominations must be received by July 24. The recipient will be announced at a luncheon during the Pastor's Conference on August 4 at Mount Olive College.

The selection committee for this award will include representatives from the North Carolina Ministerial Association and Mount Olive College. Please address all nominations or questions to: The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, or call Dr. David Hines at the College (919–658–2502).

The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award
Nomination Form

The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award is sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris in honor of his great-grandfather who was a Free Will Baptist minister early in the century. Dr. Morris was motivated to sponsor this award by his appreciation for the Reverend James Evans who was the pastor when he was growing up in Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Evans' minsitry was marked by his deep concern for the needs of his people. Dr. Morris wishes to honor ministers who demonstrate these special qualities. This $1,000 award will be presented at a luncheon held during the Pastor's Conference on August 4, 1997 in the Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College.

Pastor's name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Current pastorate: _____ Beginning date: _____

Conference membership: _____ Date ordained: _____

1. Pastoral Leadership and Service. In the space below or in a letter of recommendation describe your minister's effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development. Please note that the major criteria for this award is extraordinary pastoral service. Give specific examples.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Denominational Service. In the space below note services to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries. Include offices held, board memberships, and involvement in special projects. Give the dates when appropriate.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. Community Service. Note participation in local community ministries such as service as a volunteer chaplain. List offices held and give the dates when appropriate.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please attach any additional information you think might help the committee evaluate the services and work of your pastor.

Signature: _____

Deacon Chairman Date Church Clerk Date

Please returen this form along with a letter of recommendation by July 24 to: Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. For information call Dr. David Hines at the College (919–658–2502).

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The Fourth Annual

James A. Evans Lecture

Theme: Reaching Secular People
Lectures: Robert C. Stewart and Edward H. Hammett

Monday • August 4 • 9:30 AM
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Schedule of Events

Registration ($10 for minister, $16 for minister and spouse, includes lunch)	**9:00 AM**
Session One: The Secular Society	**9:30 AM**
Break	**10:45 AM**
Session Two: The Secular Society: Implications for the Church	**11:00 AM**
P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award Luncheon	**12:00 NOON**
In the Hennessee Room of the Murphy Regional Center	
Session Three: How to Reach Secular People	**1:30 PM**
Session Four: Panel Discussion with Edward Hammett, Robert Stewart	**2:30 PM**
Gary Bailey, De Eakes, and Joseph Ingram	

About the program...

The Reverend Robert C. Stewart has served as the Director of the Congregational Growth and Development Group for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 1988. He holds degrees from Furman University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His broad range of church service includes serving as minister of education to several churches and serving as an adjunct professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Reverend Edward H. Hammett has served as the Laity Leadership Team Leader for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 1995. He holds degrees from Furman Univeristy and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at North Carolina State University. Hammett is the author of *Making the Church Work: Converting the Church for the 21st Century*, published by Smyth and Helwys Publishing.

Also serving on the afternoon panel will be the Reverend Gary Bailey, pastor of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church; Dr. De Eakes, pastor of Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church; and Dr. Joseph Ingram, pastor of Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

In preparation for the program, participants are asked to read *How to Reach Secular People* by George G. Hunter, III (Abingdon Press, 1992). Ministers are strongly encouraged to bring at least two lay leaders from their congregations to participate in the program.

About the James A. Evans Lecture...

For a number of years, Mount Olive College has hosted a Ministers Institute each August. The format of this program was updated in 1994 with the inauguation of the James A. Evans Lecture. This lecture is sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina. Through sponsoring this program, Dr. Morris is seeking to foster the pastoral qualities he observed in the Reverend Evans when Evans served his home church, Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, in the Nahunta community of Wayne County. Each August the Evans Lecture will bring a significant speaker to address issues related to pastoral ministry.

The program for the day will also feature the P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award which is sponsored by Dr. Morris in memory of his great-grandfather. This award will be presented during the noon luncheon.

For additional information, contact Dr. K. David Hines, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (919–658–2502).



July

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	
29	30	1	2
6	7 Nominating Committee at Marsh Swamp, 7:00 PM	8	9
13	14	15	16
20	21	22 Convention Officers 9:00 AM	23
27	28	29	30

Mexico Sh

Young P

Mexico Short-Term Team II

August Woman's Conference

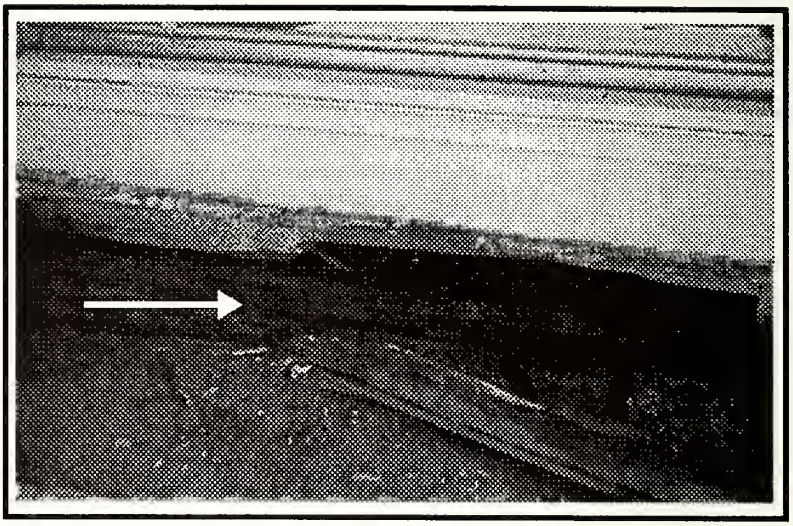
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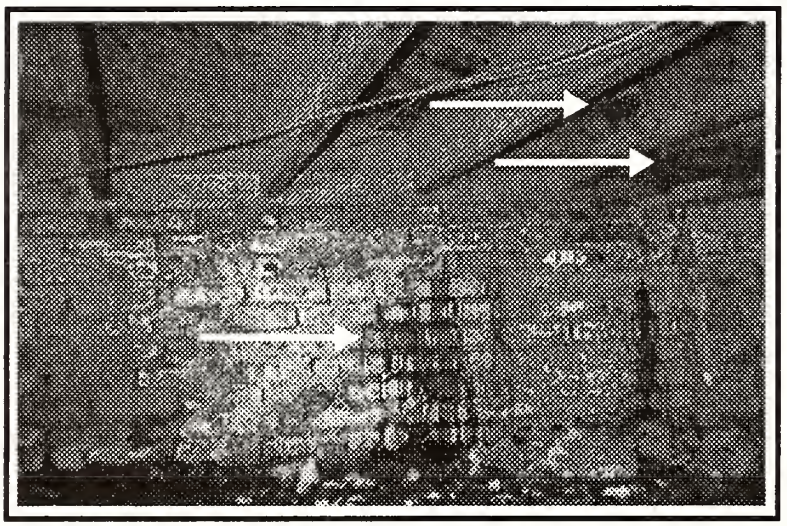
	THU	FRI	SAT
	3 7:00 PM Layman's League Executive Board	**4** Bible and Bookstores Closed FWB Press Closed Headquarters Closed Mount Olive College Closed *Independence Day*	**5**
uth Frontier Conference — AFC at Cragmont			
	10 Ministry Directors Meeting 10:00 AM	**11**	**12** 3rd Union of the Eastern Conference, Jackson Heights FWB Church, Kinston, NC, 10:00 AM Mexico Short-Term Team II
al Youth II at Cragmont			
	17 Task Force Committee 10:00 AM	**18**	**19**
al Youth I at Cragmont			
m Team II			
	24 Minister's Program Board Meeting	**25**	**26**
s Bible Conference at Cragmont			
	31	**1**	**1**
gmont			

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

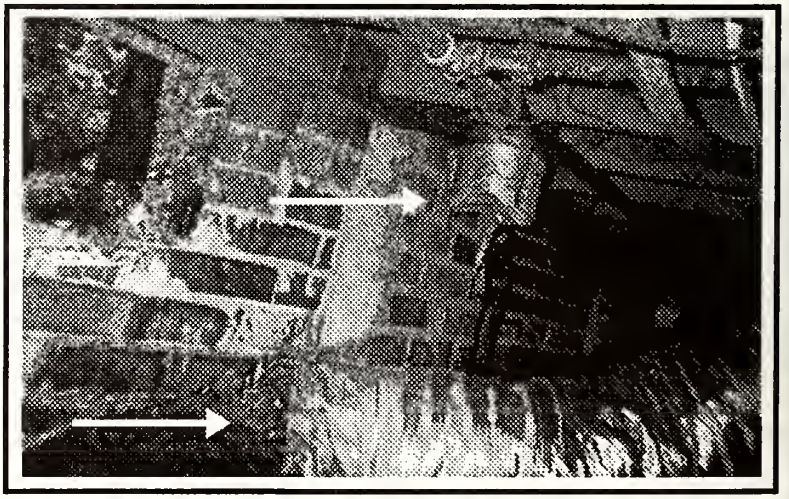
"Duplex" Damage Worse Than Expected!



In a previous article it was reported that there was significant damage to the Duplex where Rose Bowen and Kaye Jones live. It was thought that it was caused by termites and rot. Further investigation also shows rot from water damage, which has been going on for a long time. It is more serious than we thought at first. The picture at right shows significant damage to the underpinning and foundation on the front of the building and some of the exterior wall will have to be replaced also. The arrow points to the area where water, collected by a large planter, has caused the rotting of part of the wall and damaged the masonry underpinning. In the middle picture the lower arrow indicates areas of the moisture damage as seen from underneath the house. The upper arrows show long-term rot, caused by water damage to the wooden substructure. The repairs are under way and will be completed before the end of summer. The progress is slow because the first step was to put in drainage pipe and install gutters and down-spouts on the rear eaves to channel the water safely to a nearby storm drain. We are hoping that drying will help minimize the amount of structural replacement necessary. After the drying some wooden substructure will have to be repaired and some replaced. As you probably have guessed by now, this is a very expensive task. Moreover, when the damage has been fixed, we still must properly treat the house for termites, rot and pests of various sorts. This task is being done slowly to allow for funds, to help pay the bills, to come in. If you and / or your church group can help financially with this project, please send your contributions to Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, N.C. 28513.



In addition to the other problems, time has ravaged the heating distribution ducts. As indicated by the arrows in the picture at right, several of the ducts had become separated from the registers leading into the house. This condition has already been repaired. The efficiency of the heating and cooling should be greatly improved. In the last few months, repairs have been made to the heating systems to both apartments. These repairs cost more than $ 600.00. Slowly but surely, we are making the improvements that will enable us to use the house for sometime to come.



The Act of Compassion

by Tezdjan

In this time of hardship many of us have seen that there are people who show their love to their neighbor.

After Willem returned from Holland, he was full with new energy. Besides all the work he has to do, he said: "Now the first priority is the people, because they suffer a lot and we have the possibilities to try to do something to help them." He called and faxed to people in Holland and received telephone calls and faxes from people abroad.

J. David started in November under the Foundation White Fields and the Foundation B. Command followed after him to send us goods through Bulgarian Friends International via Ulm. Volunteers brought the goods from Holland to Ulm with their personal cars and trailers. This saved the contributors a lot of money which could be used for the direct purpose of "Help in Need." Ulm is a city in the South of Germany.

In the meantime we had the task here to open ways to be able to receive the goods free of import charges, we had to arrange the transport from Sophia to Balchik. We also had the important task to get the right information about the situation and to formulate that for the people abroad.

The real problem was hyperinflation. Many business owners protected themselves by taking the valuable products out of their shops and supermarkets. The markets were empty. The prices went up sky-high in a couple of week's time.

Hospitals were not able to buy the needed medicines for the patients, the kitchen of the hospital could only provide one small meal per day for the patients which were there for emergency cases; all others were sent home. We put a lot of pressure on those who were offering help to the Bulgarians. In the first half of March we received the first ten tons of aid-goods. (In the second half the other ten tons.)

It was said that the truck should arrive at 5 to 6 o'clock. At eleven o'clock the driver knocked on our door and he asked us if we were able to provide him some diesel so that he could reach our home. His tanks were empty. Fortunately we had about 5 gallons which we saved for our VW Passat. At 24 o'clock the truck arrived at our address, and we were very, very happy. To unload was not possible anymore.

Now you have to know this: "Our quartal is very clean." If you forget to take something inside, for example your shoes, you can be sure that someone has cleaned up that place. Therefore we asked two well-known Gypsy-boys to spend the night in the truck and they did an excellent job.

The other morning we prayed the Lord to give us wisdom to divide all the goods in the right way. The truck was loaded with baby milk and baby food for the hospital, bandages and dressings for the surgery room and the polyclinic, flour, macaroni, biscuits, vitamins, drinks and margarine. On the parking place of the hospital we divided all the goods. They were distributed to the District Social Service, the hospital, one boarding school for mentally handicapped children, one boarding school for children who came from families who can't take care of them, and to a Children Sanatorium at Tuzlata. They all were very happy with the aid we could give them and they assured us that it brought a lot of relief in their hardship.

Every Saturday we organize a soup-kitchen in the building of the Social Service at Balchik. There we provide, weekly, about one thousand meals of a very good cooked soup to the poor people.

The winter has been very difficult and we know that in the coming months the food situation will be worse until the new harvest comes on the market. With the Lord's help we will continue to help the hungry people, the sick and all those who are in a real need for help.

Through our office we daily help people with flour and margarine, macaroni and with that which we can share. The trash container which is at the corner of our street has daily visitors to check for food or any other things that still can be used.

Please pray for our country because the present problems cannot be changed in a twinkling.



This man receives food on a regular basis.



Distribution of food at Social Services





Food stock for distribution

"Give of Your Best to The Master"

by Mrs. Loida Samones

The Puerto Princesa Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines, organized a Junior Choir last December 1996.

The title of this article was the title of their first song in church. This song challenged the young people although their talents are few. The important thing is that we are giving our best to the Master. The Junior Choir was led by Mrs. Esther Garcellano. She is giving her best to teach these young people in order to train their voices to sing unto the Lord. They have regular practice every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday night.

Please pray for these young people who have committed themselves to this kind of ministry.



Baptismal Service

by Mrs. Loida L. Samones

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19–20).

This is one of the ordinances God had commanded us to do. The Puerto Princesa Free Will Baptist Church had a baptismal service last December 1, 1996, in Balsahan, Puerto Princesa City. There were four persons who totally surrendered their lives to God. They were Jay-ar Garcia, Melody Badajos, Christina Lacasa and Joida Samones. This service was officiated by the Rev. Antonio Samones assisted by Pastor Orlando Garcia.

Please pray for these four people, for their spiritual growth.



"Build One for Them"





The Board of Foreign Missions is excited to announce that a gift to build a church building and parsonage in Rudrapur, India, has been received. This was given by a family that wishes to remain anonymous. The cost of this project is $32,000. We are extremely grateful for such a generous contribution for this needy cause. The congregation at Rudrapur of approximately 200 people presently sit on the ground in the open air to worship. Words cannot express what this gift will mean to them.

Please allow this generous act of love to challenge you (churches and individuals) to pray about your involvement in "Build One for Them."

"Build One for Them" is a new project of Foreign Missions to help provide adequate facilities for our congregations around the world. It is designed to actively involve our churches here in the United States in these projects. We challenge churches that have completed building programs of their own to now turn their energy and attention toward constructing a church building for one of our congregations in another country. We also challenge churches with building plans to "Build One for Them" at the same time you construct your building.

The church will be provided with monthly progress reports and pictures of construction. A Short-Term Team can be developed for the congregation to go and spend a period of time helping with the construction. At the completion of the project the pastor and one or more representatives from the church will be encouraged to attend the dedication service. A large framed, color picture will be presented to the church in a special service in recognition of your unselfish love and commitment to others. This will be an exciting way for a church to become involved with a sister congregation on one of our fields in a very personal way. Please begin to pray about this and trust God for His answer and supply.

As soon as we receive the needed information from the different fields, we will share this with all of our churches and give you the opportunity to experience the joy of "Build One for Them."

FOREIGN MISSIONS

****** *SPECIAL NOTICE* ******

SHORT-TERM TEAM OPPORTUNITIES 1998

If you are considering joining a team in 1998, let me urge you to act quickly. We can only accommodate a limited number and many have already applied.

PHILIPPINES: This team will depart on April 17 and return on May 3, 1998. The team is open to those 18 years old and up. We need at least two people on this team who have skills in carpentry and masonry who would be responsible in directing the other team members in construction of either a parsonage or a church building.

We also need those interested in youth work, VBS, sports, music, preaching, personal evangelism and other gifts that you can use in ministry. We can only take 15 people on this team.

MEXICO: One team will work in Mexico from June 13–23, 1998. Team members must be 13 years old and up. This team is almost full. We still, however, need a few people with skills in carpentry and masonry to join this team. This first team is responsible for the major construction part of the building. Team members not involved in construction will conduct VBS, prayer walks, skits, puppets, etc.

The second team will work in Mexico from July 11–21, 1998. There are still openings for this team, but many have indicated their intent to join. You need to act today! We will process applications in the order they are received until all places are filled. We can only take thirty people. This team will finish the building and be involved in various other ministries.

The third team will work in Mexico from August 3–13, 1998. Team members must be 18 years old and up. This team will work in a Youth Camp in Moralles. This will be the first Youth Camp of this nature ever held in Mexico. Youth from all churches in Mexico will be involved. We need Short-Termers who are interested in this type ministry to call our office as soon as possible.

CALLING DOCTORS AND DENTISTS: We could use doctors or dentists on our Short-Term Teams who would be willing to give their services to minister to the people on our mission fields. Dr. Don Ribeiro and his wife, Karen have ministered through medicine to hundreds of people in the past three years. This has been a life enriching experience for them and has blessed the lives of many people.

If you are interested in any of these teams, act immediately! Call or write: Board of Foreign Missions, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; (919) 746–4963.

SPECIAL NOTE: Two orientation sessions are required for those who sign up to join a Short-Term Team.

HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

Is Your Church Hunting for a Good Idea?

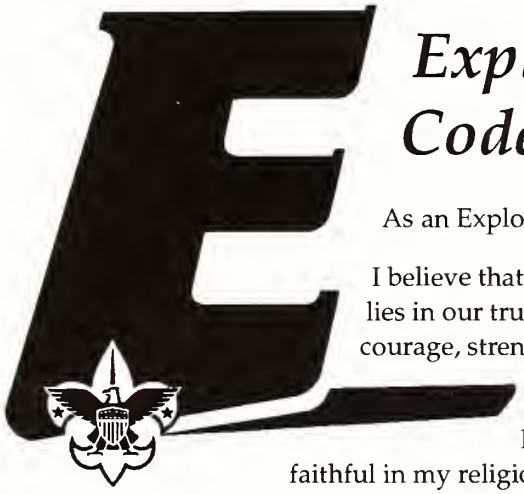


The search is over!

Let us provide your next workshop or study course.

- ☞ Church Growth
- ☞ Discipleship
- ☞ Evangelism
- ☞ The Mission of the Church
- ☞ Check Your Hospitality
- ☞ Ushers Are Important
- ☞ Harvest Covenant Program
- ☞ Touching Lives Corps
- ☞ The Work and Ministry of Home Mission and Evangelism

HOME MISSIONS
& EVANGELISM
— of ORIGINAL —
Free Will Baptists
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513–0039



Explorer Code

As an Explorer —

I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people.

I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life.

I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it.

I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life.

I will acquire the Exploring attitude that seeks the truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.



The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism will celebrate its 25th Anniversary at our 1997 Annual Convention in September.

This year, we are responsible for providing the program for the Mission Rally on Wednesday evening. Plans are to have a Rally that the entire church family will want to attend. Every organization within the church will have an opportunity to help EXPAND HIS KINGDOM through this 25th Celebration. Begin making plans now to attend the 1997 Mission Rally conducted by Home Missions and Evangelism on Wednesday evening, September 17.

Exploring as a Youth Ministry

Exploring is enabling. It provides resources, training, and support for professional and volunteer youth ministers. It gives youth a sense of community, a forum in which to express themselves, and opportunities to exercise leadership in the church and community.

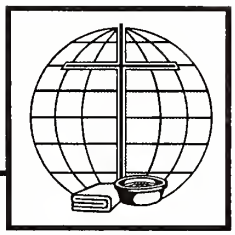
Exploring's resources help religious organizations minister to the whole person. Exploring encourages physical, mental, and moral fitness. It encourages personal responsibility for one's faith and one's world. It encourages service to others.

Exploring is fun. The best religious program in the world is ineffective without participation. Exploring captures the interest and imagination of young people.

Exploring will work with any existing youth program. It does not require starting another program. Any youth group can incorporate Exploring into its program.

Exploring is a tremendous resource for relational ministry. It can be that "extra something" that energizes the youth of your community. It offers training for youth leaders to help make them feel comfortable in their leadership roles, and training for adults to help them develop meaningful, trusting relationships with youth. Social events attract youth and keep them coming back. Exploring supports your effects to build community and serve others.

Your Scouting Commission offers an information packet of resources that support congregations' efforts to reach high school-age youth. Order the packet, No. 5–938 from the Scouting Commission, Box 39 Ayden, NC 28513 or call (919) 746–4963



Life Award Presentation to Alma Dale Cox 1997 Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Third John Verse 14 reads "But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name." These words seem to express at least in a small way the woman we honor today. I see her bubbling excitement in renewing friends in any gathering she attends. She calls the overwhelming mob one by one by name. Her greeting is a remembering of who and what you are to her. She is welcomed and embraced by those who know her spirit, but she welcomes you into her fold of friends even quicker. I have seen her do it often at Cragmont.

Acts 4:36 tells of a man named Barnabas who is called the "son of consolation" by the disciples. Our lady also shows that trait. She is one who consoles you in your uncertainty and encourages you along the way. She is an amazing reader of the desires and wishes of another's heart. Maybe the reason for her sensitivity is that she is listening with her heart to the voice of highest authority. She truly tries to open her heart and mind to the messages from her Saviour no matter what the occasion — from the closing song at a service to the words spoken to a stranger. (If any one could ever be considered a stranger in her presence.)

But best of all I see her in 2 Chronicles 35:2, "And he set the priests in their charges, and *encouraged* them to the service of the house of the Lord." Time after time I've watched her take the timid, the shy, the uncertain and lead them to believe they could do it for God's glory.

She is one of the greatest "encouragers" I have ever known. She repeatedly shows others how to serve the Lord with joy. I consider it a rare privilege to call her "friend" for I am one of many she taught, "You can do it for the Master." From the first time I met her at Cragmont Woman's Conference to the time she let me sing with her, she has shown the love of Christ. Of the many lessons she has taught me one of the most priceless was that to listen and appreciate what another was doing was as wonderful as the actual doing. Her gift of music each year at Cragmont has become a tradition that encourages all those in attendance.

She is probably best known for her singing voice. Which brings us to her service to her Master, Jesus Christ and His work in this world.

Alma Sauls Dale Cox was born February 6, 1926, to Rudy and Flossie Sauls. After graduating from high school, she began 40 years of service with F. W. Woolworth Company. Her witness for her Saviour was an intricate part of her years on the job in the secular world. She married William (Bill) L. Dale on November 9, 1945, after meeting him through a letter by way of her cousin who had given Alma's address to a service friend.

She accepted Christ as Saviour while attending Stoney Creek FWB Church in Goldsboro and thereby began a love affair with her Saviour that continues until today.

In 1966 Bill answered the call to the ministry. Alma and Bill began a 20-year labor of love at Spring Hill Free Will Baptist Church on September 4, 1966. It was here Alma experienced some of her greatest times of joy and surely her greatest sorrow when Bill was called home to be with his Lord on September 17, 1985.

Through the years Alma has held high the name of her Saviour in numerous areas of service and labor:

- Sunday School Teacher for Ambassadors Class at Spring Hill for 22 years, a class she organized for married adults.
- Choir director at Spring Hill for years.
- Involvement in the local woman's auxiliary as:
  - Mission Chairman
  - Study Course Chairman
  - Program Prayer Chairman
  - Benefit Committee
- Involvement in the District Auxiliary as:
  - Program Prayer Chairman
  - Missions Chairman
  - Study Course Chairman
- Music Director for the Cragmont Woman's Conference each summer for two weeks.
- Speaking for Auxiliary Study Courses and Prayer Breakfasts.
- A companion for Mrs. Geneva Pope at Brian Center Nursing.

She married the Rev. Clyde Cox on July 13, 1996 and began another phase of her service to her Lord as she works with Rev. Cox at Saint Mary's FWB Church near Kenly.

A friend put it extremely well when she said Alma Dale Cox can be very persuasive when getting someone to do something for the Lord. Perhaps one of her strongest characteristics is that she looks for people who might not be noticed by others and encourages them to do whatever they are capable of for His glory. I would say she is an "encourager."

Alma Dale Cox is surely as precious gift from God to Free Will Baptist women as well as to Free Will Baptist ministries. Her love of that which is Free Will Baptist cannot be questioned but even more important is the love of God that she joyfully shares with the people about her. To thank you for all the hearts you have read and understood and soothed with the healing balm of music and encouragement, we the Woman's Auxiliary of the Original Free Will Baptist honor you with the life award.

Ruby Hall Hancock In Memoriam

Submitted by Woman's Auxiliary

The Hebrew Psalmist in a reflective moment, contemplated the blessings of God and penned the beautiful words "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage" (Psalm 16:6). Original Free Will Baptists echo these words many centuries later in two very special areas of faith and Christian living; a doctrine carved out for us that is Biblically accurate and sound and the legacy of beautiful role models and mentors who have left for us a lighted pathway to follow.

Any serious student of the Scriptures immediately realizes that, just as the church was formed as part of the divine plan, the equipping of the church was also part of the master plan, and in every congregation of believers there are those with special gifts and talents, placed there in order that Kingdom work may grow and prosper. In St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church of New Bern, North Carolina, our Heavenly Father placed a multi-gifted individual whose love for Her Lord was evident in the manner in which she lived and served.

Ruby Hall Hancock was born on November 1, 1912, the oldest of four daughters born to Docia and Ellis Hall of New Bern. Ruby's childhood was spent in the New Bern area and her family was a church family, being an active part of the ministry and activities of St. Mary's church. Following graduation from New Bern High School in 1929, she attended Hardbargers Business School in Raleigh in order to prepare herself for a worthy vocation. During this period of her life she was receiving special attention from a Christian young man who was a classmate and friend and who eventually convinced Ruby that he was part of God's divine plan for her life. Durwood Hancock and Ruby Hall were married on April 2, 1933, and their union was blessed with a son, Durwood Jr., and a daughter, Karen. Their home was a Christian home, and the church and God's work always came first in their family.

When her children were growing up, Ruby was active in the Parent Teacher Association. She served as president of two local Parent Teacher Associations; as a district director and on the executive board of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers. She also served with the Parent League and helped to set up a code of ethics for parents and teenagers.

Devoted to her community, she gave many hours in unselfish service to her fellowman, being active in fund-raising drives for the Heart Fund, The Cancer Fund, the United Way, and the March of Dimes, to name a few. Perhaps her greatest love and level of involvement in community endeavors was in the area of Mental Health. She served as executive director of the Craven County Mental Health Association from 1962 until her retirement in 1985. Recognizing her service and dedication to her community, New Bern and Craven County presented to her The Distinguished Service Award on April 21, 1972. In further recognition of her community involvement, she was appointed to the North Carolina Human Relations Council by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., on June 1, 1977, and was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Governor James G. Martin for "providing volunteer services to North Carolina's greatest resource, her people." The Citizenship Division of the New Bern Woman's Club honored her with the distinction of being New Bern's Woman of the Year.

Ruby's love for her community took second place when compared with her love for her Lord and His church. She had the distinct privilege of having as a mentor in her early years, the founder of our Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. Alice Lupton. Her formative years in the church and her love for God and His people, engendered in her a deep sense of commitment to the ministry of the church and a fervent desire to serve whenever called upon. She served in virtually every position of her local auxiliary and as president of both the Eastern District and State Woman's Auxiliary Conventions; was awarded the "Life Membership Award" and chosen "Free Will Baptist Woman of the Year" in 1966 by the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention.

She served on many boards and committees of her local church and on the Board of Director of Cragmont Assembly. Her love for God's Word and her passion for sharing the good news found expression in her service as teacher of the St. Clare Sunday School Class of St. Mary's Church for over thirty-five years. In appreciation for her life and love for this class, by unamious vote of class members, the class was renamed "The Ruby Hancock Bible Class" in 1966.

After several years of declining health, Ruby was promoted to the Church Triumphant on March 1, 1997, and her funeral service was conducted by St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church on March 4, 1997. Her pastor, the Reverend Craig Simmons, in speaking of this special lady of God, compared her life of service to Ruth, the Moabitess. He verbalized the great love that existed between this lady and her husband of sixty-four years and the similarities of their love story and that of Ruth and Boaz. As a testament of her husband's love and devotion, he lovingly cared for her during her declining health, often rejecting assistance from others, and demonstrating his love for his wife in a most meaningful way.

Ruby Hancock loved her husband with all her heart, loved her children, grandchildren, and sisters dearly, and loved her Lord and His Word unconditionally. She echoed the words of the Psalmist, "Your statutes are wonderful; therefore, I obey them" (Psalm 119:129 NIV). She read her Bible and lived its teachings; and we were blessed to learn from her and to walk the Christian walk with her.

Ruby is survived by her husband, Durwood W. Hancock, Sr., a son, Durwood W. Hancock, Jr., of Myrtle Beach, SC., a daughter, Karen Hancock Finley, of Lenoir, and six grandchildren. Her husband, Durwood, and three sisters, Doris Daniels, Mary Emma Phipps, and Pat Gaskins are active members of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern, North Carolina.

Ordination Service — Brian H. Davis

March 2, 1997

The Ordination Service for Brian H. Davis was held on Sunday, March 2, 1997, at First FWB Church, Wilson, NC. The Ordination Board of the Western Conference was in charge of the service.

The Rev. Wayne King, Pastor, gave the welcome. The Rev. Bryant Hines sang, "Whatever It Takes." The Rev. King then gave the invocation. Brian gave his remarks in which he thanked all for their direction in his life and most of all to God for never giving up on him.

Mrs. Holly Everington sang "It's My Desire." The Rev. Craig Simmons, Pastor of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, brought the message from 1 Kings 19:9. He challenged Brian and others to be quiet enough to hear God, brave enough to preach God's message and honest enough to live the Christian life. The Rev. Simmons brought out Brian's favorite verse in the Bible, Philippians 4:13, and challenged him to never forget that he could do all things as long as God was his strength. He ended the message by saying, "My son, I love you as if you were my own and you are in my prayers."

The Rev. James Joyner, Chairman, introduced the members of the Ordaining Board. The Ministry Charge was presented by the Rev. Rudy Owens. Final Questioning was presented by the Rev. James Rogerson. The Rev. Ray Wells invited the ministers of the congregation, along with the Ordaining Board, in the Prayer of Consecration and Laying on of Hands. The Rev. King presented a Bible to Brian from the Congregation of First Church. The Rev. James Joyner presented Brian with the Certificate of Ordination.

The Right Hand of Fellowship was given by the congregation. The Rev. Lloyd Hargiss gave the benediction and blessing on the reception which was held in the Church Fellowship Hall. Musicians for the service were Sandra Pearson, pianist, and Jan Boykin, organist.

Approximately 350 guests attended Brian's Ordination along with Mr. J. Ralph Barnes of Little Rock FWB Church who established a scholarship fund for ministers. Brian was the first recipient of the Barnes Scholarship.

Brain has attended First Church of Wilson since a newborn. He graduated from Ralph F. Fike High School and continued his education at Mount Olive College. He graduated in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and also in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Church Ministries.

He now serves as Associate Pastor and Youth Director at St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church in New Bern, North Carolina.

Brian is the son of Harold and Linda Davis and brother to Greg of Wilson, North Carolina.

North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptist Leagues

A television advertisement some time ago advised, "don't go 'round hungry." Delegates and visitors to the Free Will Baptist League Convention at Mount Olive College on May 17, 1997, learned ways to satisfy "spiritual hunger pangs."

The convention convened at Rodgers Chapel with the theme, "Feed Your Soul." Our first course was a beautiful devotional thought and song with singing by Stacey Burgess. The menu continued with thoughts on ways the League nourishes the soul by the president, Sharlene Howell. Some interesting tidbits for the summer were shared by the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood about the Christian Cadet Conference at Cragmont Assembly. The main course was served during the afternoon when each of the League officers shared ideas for some new recipes to be used in the local League program. Teaching lessons, games, competitions, and record keeping were included in these illustrations.

Of course, we served the Sword Drill for dessert. The intermediate first place winner was Kasey Britton from Hickory Chapel FWB Church. Goldsboro First FWB Church gave us junior third place winner — Hillary Willams and fourth place winner — Timothy Howell. First place — Amanda Keel and second place — Sarah Jones, junior winners were from Hickory Chapel FWB Church.

The meeting was one in which the soul was truly fed with "Recipes for Soul Improvement." By the close of this day of feasting on God's messages at the Convention, Leaguers found themselves more committed to the theme verse, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God;..." (1 Chronicles 22:19).



Front row: Timothy Howell; second row: Hillary Williams, Kasey Britt; and third row: Sarah Jones, Amanda Keel.

Why don't you join us in 1998 for a time of nourishment in the Lord?

If you would like some information about the League, its program and materials, or the Sword Drill please contact: Becky Jo Sumner, Route 4 Box 410, Ahoskie, NC 27910, 919–332–6810.

Lois Everington
Woman of the Year

On Sunday, May 11, 1997 the Ladies Auxiliary of Deep Run Free Will Baptist Church recognized and gave honor to Lois Everington who was selected for the Woman of the Year — 1997. The presentation was made by Claudine Kennedy.

Mrs. Everington was married to the Reverend Melvin Everington who died in 1994. They had two daughters Marcie and Sandra. The Everingtons lived and served as pastor at Deep Run Free Will Baptist Church for 12 years. During this time their daughters graduated from South Lenoir High School and were both married. In 1975, their daughter Sandra and granddaughter were killed in a car accident. After this, they moved to Cove City. In the early 1980s they moved to the Moss Hill community where Mrs. Everington lives at this time. Her daughter Marcie Howell is married to Wade Howell III, and they have two children, Kenneth Wade and Sandi.

Lois Everington is a fine Christian woman who walks her talk. Mrs. Everington visits the sick regularly and always takes a little something for them. She is active in the church and shares her leadership by working on the Board of Christian Education, auxiliary, teaching the Cornerstone Sunday school class when needed, teaching Bible school, and leading in the Children's Storytime.

Mrs. Everington graduated from Lenoir Community College with a degree in cosmetology. She worked in the profession until her retirement in the early 1990s. Her hobbies are housekeeping, taking tours, and traveling. She has traveled in all the states within the United States with the exception of Hawaii.

As stated by Claudine Kennedy "To know her is to love her" for Mrs. Everington is a friend to everyone that she meets. We are proud to give her this honor that she truly deserves. To highlight this appreciation the ladies auxiliary presented her with an engraved silver tray.



Holly Springs
Free Will Baptist Church



Old Fashioned Day was celebrated on April 13. Antiques were displayed, church members dressed "old fashioned," and everyone enjoyed dinner following church services. Pictured are some of the "old fashioned folks" at Holly Springs.



Yes, that's Pastor Ray Conner behind the wheel of the 1950 Chevrolet. On the left is his wife, Ginny, and on the right is Peggy Horrell (whose father owns the car).



The "Holly Springs Gloryland Travelers" enjoyed April 17–20 at Cragmont. A group from St. Mary's FWB Church in New Bern were also there during that time. The two groups shared devotions and other activities.

Carolina Bible Institute & Seminary Offers A Plan to Help Young Ministers Preparing for their Career

We are in receipt of a letter from the Reverend David Thick, pastor of the Pleasant Hill Church of the Western Conference in which he informs us that his church has voted to contribute the sum of $500 for the school year 1997–98 to finance a ministerial student who is in need of help to attend school. We believe that this is a noteworthy thing this church has done and is worthy of being adopted by others.

We have observed that the average student who feels the call to the Christian ministry is married and has two or three children, has a job; but finds himself struggling to try to get started with a home, send his children to school, and then attend school himself. Of course, there are lending agencies where he may borrow all or part of his tuition. However, he wonders how he can pay the debt and continue to raise a growing family. This constitutes a problem for many of the young men who are called to the ministry. We believe that this church has hit on an idea that should help many of us to know how best to help a young man become a minister in our church.

Since receiving this promise from the Pleasant Hill Church to send the $500 per year to help a ministerial student, we have decided to ask others to do the same thing. Because our classes are held at night so that the young minister can hold a job, and our fees are lower than most other places, we believe that this $500 per year will help a young man get started in the ministry who otherwise could not.

Here at Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary, we have decided to try to get at least $50,000 raised by churches so that we can use the money to get some students who otherwise could not come to school to come. Of course, we cannot and will not say that anyone who wants to can come to our school without pay. This would even destroy the school. Each student who is helped by this fund will be checked carefully and there are certain conditions that must exist before he starts to use the money. Then we will notify the church of his name and address and each church can know which student they are helping to come to school.

Churches, if you are willing to follow the plan started by Pleasant Hill Church let us know of your intention. You do not have to pay all of the $500.00 at once; however, we would like to have some part of it by September 1, when the fall term begins. You will be sent information about the man you are helping, and we will arrange for him to visit your church and let you get to know who you are helping.

Our young preachers are not beggars; they are not going to ask you for help, but we can arrange it so that no one will be embarrassed and our churches and the students will be blessed. This should help to supply some of the pulpits that have a difficult time finding a suitable minister. Let us know you intentions as soon as possible.

Pastor Available

The Reverend James Warren of Kinston, NC, would like it to be known that he is now available for pulpit supply. Any Original Free Will Baptist Church in need of a supply pastor, can contact the Rev. Warren at 1000 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC, (919–527–1648). Brother Warren is a member of the Eastern Conference and is in good standing with his Conference.

He is free to come any Sunday for a trial sermon. Brother Warren was ordained September 25, 1972. He attended Mount Olive College and took a Bible Course under the leadership of the Reverend Frank Harrison. He also attended Lenoir Community College where he studied both the Old and New Testament.

Feel free to contact him by letter or phone at any time.

Obituaries

Rev. Frank Davenport

Rev. Frank Davenport, 73, died Friday, April 11, 1997, at Wayne Memorial Hospital. He was preceded in death by a son, Steven Davenport. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, April 12, from the chapel of Seymour Funeral Home, Goldsboro, with the Rev. A.C. Morgan, Rev. Bill Howard, and Rev. Bobby Jackson officiating. Burial followed in Wayne Memorial Park. Survivors include his wife, Bertha Wooten Davenport; two sons and daughters-in-law, Wayne and Barbara Adams Davenport of Topsail Island, and Donald and Judy Sauls Davenport of Pikeville; a daughter-in-law, Greta Lucas Davenport of Goldsboro; two sisters, Marjorie D. Jackson of Grifton, and Lillie D. Harris of Ayden; grandchildren: Dexter and Camoren Carter Davenport of Wilmington, Dee Dee and Bryan Daughtry of Smithfield, and Chad and Cindy Hare Davenport and Caine Davenport and Stephanie Davenport, all of Goldsboro; and great-grandchildren, Drew Gail Davenport and Russ Daughtry. The family received friends from 7 to 9 PM Friday at the funeral home, and other times at the residence, 831 Lindell Road, Stantonsburg. Seymour Funeral Home, Goldsboro, was in charge of arrangements.

FYI

Obituaries

Rev. Clifton Taylor Rice

The Reverend Clifton Taylor Rice, 90, passed away Thursday, March 13, 1997, at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, pastor and friend, he will be missed by all whose lives he touched. He was an Original Free Will Baptist Minister for 70 years. He pastored Ormandsville Free Will Baptist Church for 20 years and Hugo Free Will Baptist Church for 25 years. Rev. Rice hosted his Radio Church for 16 years, touching the lives of all who listened. Many other churches on the Eastern Seaboard enjoyed his preaching through the many revivals he conducted, including one held at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. His love for the ministry led him to create an endowment in his name at Mount Olive College where he also served on the Board of Trustees. He served on the Executive Board and Examining Board of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference. He moderated the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination. He attended Eureka Bible College and was ordained in his home church, the Arapahoe Original Free Will Baptist Church in Arapahoe, North Carolina, where he also pastored. He conducted countless numbers of marriages and funerals during his years in service. Rev. Rice was the originator and owner of Rice Monuments, Inc. in Kinston since 1942. A native North Carolinian, he was born in Alliance to the late Noah and Rosa Rice. Rev. Rice was preceded in death by two sisters, Bertha Rice Hardison and Leona Rice Lee and two brothers, Carlton Rice and Phillip Rice. Funeral Services were held at 2 PM Saturday, March 15, 1997, at the First Free Will Baptist church on Lenoir Avenue, Kinston, with the Rev. Billy Jordan officiating. Burial followed at Westview Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Dorris Lanier Rice; a daughter, Joan Carolyn Rice Broadway and husband, Murrell Ray Broadway of Kinston; a grandson, Jeffrey Rice Broadway and wife, Michael, and great-granddaughter, Emily Leeds Broadway, all of Kinston; a grandson, Patrick Ray Broadway and wife, Leise, of Los Angeles, CA; a granddaughter, Jill Elizabeth Broadway of Greenville; a grandson, Scott Andrew Broadway of Kinston; three brothers; Ronald Rice of Greenville, Donald Rice of Cornelius and Bradford Rice of Minnesott Beach; and a sister, Lois Rice Donald of Virginia Beach, VA. The family received friends from 7 to 9 PM, Friday, March 14, at Howard-Carter & Stroud Funeral Home and other times, at the home of his daughter, Joan Broadway, 2806 Brookhaven Dr., Kinston. Memorial contributions were made to the First Free Will Baptist Church, 314 W. Lenoir Avenue, Kinston, NC 28501.

The 1997 Youth Convention

The 1997 Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists met on May 16–18 at Mount Olive College. The theme was "Soul Improvement."

Events and activities were scheduled for each age category. A highlight of the Convention was the Awards Banquet, held on Saturday evening. After the meal, awards were presented to the first, second and third place winners in all categories. As pictured, several hundred attended.



The denominational ministries were represented with displays set up in College Hall. Pictured is Darren Davenport (center) managing the Free Will Baptist Press display, with two youth representatives.



Everyone enjoyed "Whittle Do," the clown. Not only did he provide a lot of fun and entertainment, he also presented challenging devotional messages.



The Youth Convention officers are: President, Tara Harrison; Vice-president, Brad Piner; Recording Secretary, Amanda Roach; Treasurer, Jennifer Taylor; Outreach Corresponding Secretary.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

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Saturday, August 16, 1997

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Join us for fun and fellowship at the All-You-Can-Eat Family Picnic. Meal served from 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM at the Group Sales Pavilion. Includes hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad, rolls, soft drinks, iced tea, and ice cream cups.

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$8.75 Ages 7 and above **$4.50** Ages 3–6

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Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

The Golden Years

Terminal Diagnosis

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"In the prime of my life must I go through the gates of death and be robbed of the rest of my years?" (Isaiah 38:10; New International Version).

The Diagnosis

The mood of our time is to deny the reality of death and to live as if the present is forever. The day comes, however, when we are not feeling well. We try home remedies and hope that the symptoms will go away, but they persist. Either because of pain or fear, we consult our doctor who, after preliminary examination, refers us to a specialist. Following further examinations and extensive testing, we are told we have an incurable condition.

Life is suddenly put into a new context. The old priorities no longer seem to have value, and our plans for the future lose their importance. "What is the meaning of all this? Why is it happening?" we ask. These questions, which are as old as the human race, bring us to the core of our existence.

Where There Is Hope There Is Life

When our lives are at stake, we do not give up easily. In the Old Testament there is the story of Hezekiah who was considered to have been a king utterly loyal to God. He became ill, however, and was at the point of death. When Isaiah the prophet went to see Hezekiah, he gave him a terminal diagnosis: "...Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover" (Isaiah 38:1 NIV).

The king was crushed, but he prayed; whereupon God sent Isaiah back to Hezekiah with this message: "...I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life" (Isaiah 38:5 NIV).

Many of us are alive today after having been diagnosed with one of the major killers of our times... heart disease, cancer, kidney failure, and other life threatening illnesses.

Recently, I attended a Cancer Survivor's Day event and heard inspiring testimonies from speakers, who like King Hezekiah, had been told to put their house in order. One survivor said, "Cancer patients learn how to pray better."

Another speaker, who was told twenty-three years ago he had from nine months to a year to live, encouraged those fighting cancer to focus on "the hopes, goals and dreams that can make the difference between life and death. One of the things that just kept running through my mind was I wanted to see my kids grow up. Now I'm getting a chance to see my grandkids grow up."

You have always heard, "Where there is life there is hope," the speaker continued. A more accurate way to express this truth he declared was: "Where there is hope there is life."

Transcending Death

Even as I was writing these words, however, news came of a beloved friend who had lived with a terminal diagnosis for more than a decade. All the progress of medical science not withstanding and in spite of her undaunted courage, her body had reached the limits of physical endurance.

Had God failed her? Was her death to her loss of faith? No, a thousand times no! The setting of the sun is as much a part of the day as is the rising. Sooner or later, we each must confront the reality of our mortality.

The life of King Hezekiah was extended fifteen years, but then he died. All the people whom Jesus healed later died. Even Lazarus, whom He raised from the tomb, died. Our bodies are a marvelous creation but they are still mortal.

The best way to understand death is to view it as an integral part of life. From the Christian perspective, death is not the end but is a transition from a mortal state of being to a higher form of life called immortality. The Christian faith teaches us not to ignore death but assures us that through Jesus Christ we can transcend it.

In the frantic pace of our lives, we would do well to consider the experience of Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862) who retreated to the woods to sort out what was important and what was not. "I went to the woods," he wrote, "because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, *and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.*"

1997 (Vol. 2, No. 9)
W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive College, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Og Mandino. *The Greatest Salesman in the World*. New York: Bantam Books, 1968.

INTRODUCTION

Interested in an Oriental fairy tale that applies Western ideas for success in Life? Og Mandino gives us the story of wealthy Hafid whose palace smells of balsam and walls support tapestries. Worth more than "seven million gold talents" (3), Hafid gains the reputation of being the greatest salesman in the world. How did he gain such success?

HAFID'S SECRET

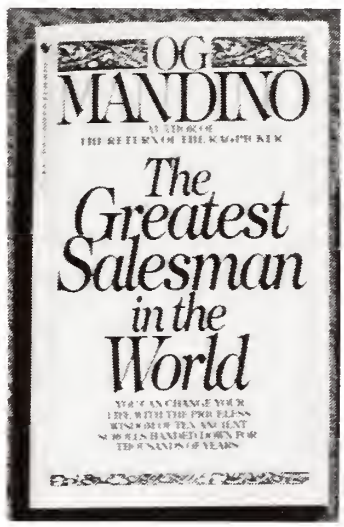
"All the success, happiness, love, peace of mind, and wealth that I have enjoyed is directly traceable to what is contained in these few scrolls" (11), declares Hafid to his faithful servant Erasmus. Locked in a small chest, these precious leather scrolls reveal ten principles for success. The great salesman of his time, Pathros, gave the scrolls to Hafid.

HAFID'S FOOLISH ACT

Wealthy Pathros gave Hafid the sacred scrolls when Hafid returned from Bethlehem without the prized red robe he was supposed to sell. No one in all of Bethlehem would buy the robe from him, and he felt doomed to remain a camel boy. In exhaustion on the fourth day of his unsuccessful sale, he found himself in a cave where a mother and father huddled near a babe. There was no room for them in the inn. Hafid "opened his precious red robe and wrapped it gently around the sleeping child" (31). Later he returned to Pathros and explained his foolish act.

THE TEN SCROLLS

Pathros recognized the bright star over Hafid and he knew this was a sign to give to the camel boy the ten scrolls. From these scrolls, Hafid learned the wisdom of success: (1) "I become their slave" (54). (2) "I will greet this day with love in my heart" (60). (3) "I will persist until I succeed" (64). (4) "I am nature's greatest miracle" (72). (5) "I will live this day as if it is my last" (75). (6) "Today I will be master of my emotions" (81). (7) "I will laugh at the world" (85). (8) "Today I will multiply my value a hundredfold" (90). (9) "I will act now" (95). (10) "Only for guidance will I pray" (99).

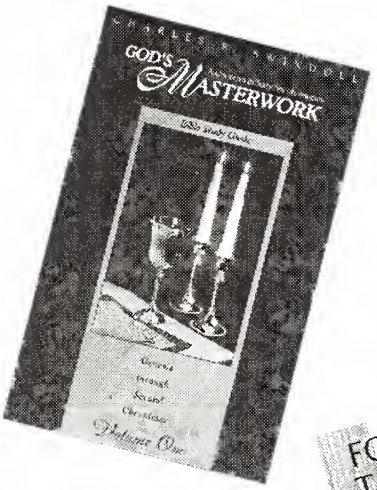


CONCLUSION

Perhaps the 10 scrolls of principles do offer some timely tips for success strategies. Og Mandino taps the personal needs we all have for achieving our goals. But Hafid's heartfelt gift of love with his red robe to the baby Jesus far outshines the magic of the scrolls, for what greater success is there than the genuine act of love?

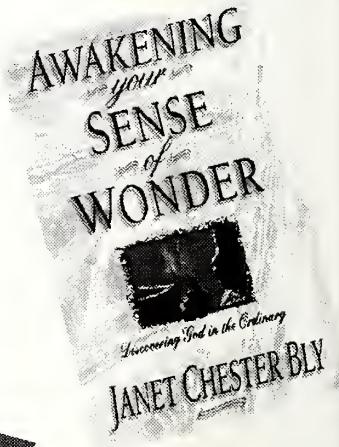
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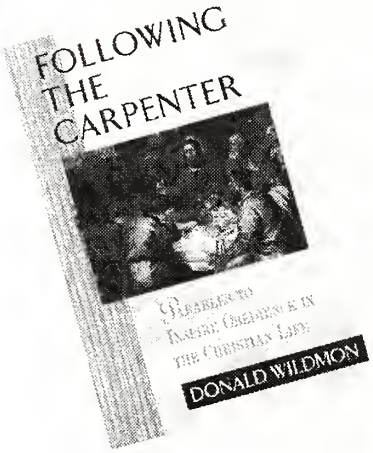
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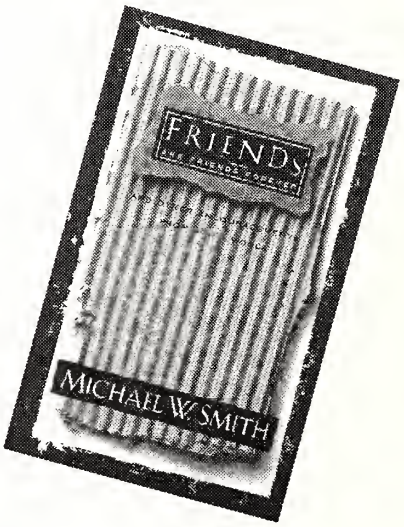


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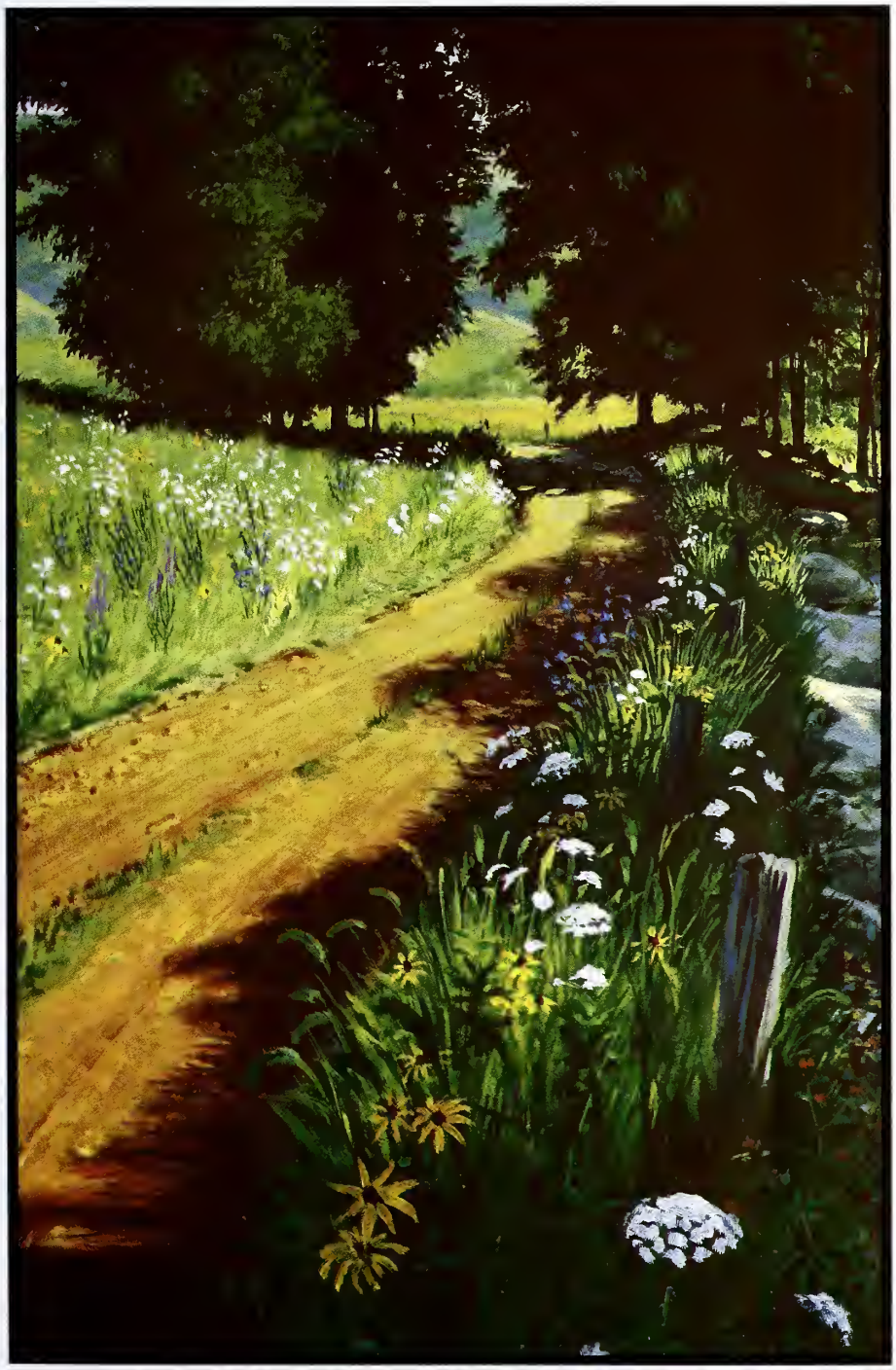
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August 1997

The Free Will Baptist



FEATURING:

"Prepare Ye the Way…"

Taken at My Word

40 Days of Prayer & Preparation

Eighty-fifth Annual Session

The First Annual Leadership Endowment

Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

How Can We
"BE NOT TROUBLED?"

Jesus understood human nature, its weaknesses and trials. He experienced each emotion of the human heart, yet without sin. He wept, He rejoiced, He became angry, and at times He was troubled. However, His troubles were not of His own shortcomings or failures. His troubled moments occurred because of the doubts and failures of others, and also as He faced the suffering of the Cross. "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour..." (John 12:27). Later after observing the Passover meal with His disciples and instituting the "Lord's Supper," and after washing the feet of the disciples, "...Jesus...was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me" (John 13:21). From the human standpoint, as the Son of Man, how could be He not troubled?

On many occasions, Jesus sought to alleviate the fear, doubts, and troubles of His followers; for He completely realized and understood their emotions. As much as possible, He wanted them to be prepared for the inevitable, thus warning them of trials and testings. In John 14:1 and 14:27, Jesus admonished the disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled," as the events of His coming death unfolded. The writing of Paul, Peter, and others referred often to the perilous times that were to come — times of testing and trials. The third Chapter of Second Timothy predicts such a time — a time of apostasy, or falling away.

Early in the Olivet Discourse, in response to the questions of the disciples regarding His return and the end of the world (age), Jesus warned about false Christs and wars that were to come and then He said, "...see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:5).

How, then , can we be not troubled, especially during the day when it seems that the perilous times as predicted are upon us? As Christians, how do we deal with the declining moral values without being troubled? How do we deal with political corruptness without being troubled? How do we cope with liberal theology and the increase of cultic beliefs and practices without being troubled? As a denomination, how do we reconcile complacency and apathy regarding denominational loyalty and support of our ministries, without being troubled?

The truth is that life has always had its troubles and trials. We may side-step them for a while, but ultimately they confront us again. The philosophy of Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind*, in deciding "to think about it tomorrow," may work for a time, but a day of reckoning will come.

Consider the words of the Apostle Paul: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; ye are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body...For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God...For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:8–10, 15, 17). That's it! Everything that happens in our lives — troubles and troublesome times, trials and testings, sorrows and joys — work for us a far more exceeding glory. We have to look beyond this earthly sojourn, over and above earthly troubles and heartaches to that place where there will no more sorrows and troubles.

Intermixed with the troublesome times are times of joy and praise, those times when we withdraw from the perplexities of life, when we lay aside those things that disturb us and refresh our souls. Then we can adequately overcome those difficult times. "How can we be not troubled?" We cannot! As Believers in Christ and God's promises, however, we know what to do.

The Coming Millennium

Before we know it, the year 2000 will be here. What a unique time to be living! We will see the beginning of a new century and the ushering in of a new millennium, or thousand years. Although (so we are told) it will not actually begin unto 2001, the big celebrations are being planned for the beginning of the year 2000.

If time continues as we now know it, and the Lord does not return, what will the next century and millennium bring? Only God knows and we can only imagine.

It is interesting to note the books, articles, etc., that are forecasting future events as we approach the new era. When the Korean War began, one well-known evangelist wrote a book entitled, *Is the Korean War the Beginning of the End?* Well, I suppose it was, just as any other event is in reality the "beginning of the end." The point is that we must not redesign God's plans. We do not know the day nor the hour when He will choose to draw the curtain of time.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

September is Home Missions and Evangelism Month

August is Convention Promotion Month

"Prepare Ye the Way..."

Part 1

Frank R. Harrison,
Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord,... and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost,... And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias,... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:15–17). (The Angel Gabriel Foretelling the Birth of John the Baptist.)

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3).

The words of the prophet set forth the idea of a forerunner and his ministry: "The voice of him that crieth... Prepare ye the way..." It is a voice of one who is heralding the approach of the Sovereign God — one who cries "The King is coming!" With His coming there will be radical transformation! The state of the wilderness, with its valleys and mountains, its crooked and rough places will be transformed into a royal highway of divine visitation, and His glory shall be revealed to all people and nations!

God uses human instruments in revival, and God uses only those instruments who are holy in heart and wholly at His disposal. God does not send revival until He has at His disposal "vessels unto honor, sanctified, and ready for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." Herein we see the infinite wisdom of God in choosing the fitting vessels for the high privilege of His work that must be worked in the human heart. Prayerfulness is not merely a preparation for revival, but also a preparation of the instruments of revival. This preparing of the vessels for revival is not the work of man, any more than revival itself is a work of man.

The great preacher of early Great Britain, Robert Murray McCheyne, saw this truth clearly before the glorious revival at Dundee. He remarked to a fellow minister, Andrew Bonar, that perhaps one reason that they were not blessed with a revival was that they were not ready for it: "the ministers would not be able to direct the people in the matters of repentance and salvation and the issues of Christian living."

To the ministers Mr. McCheyne gave this instruction: "Get your texts from God — your thoughts, your words, from God. It is not great talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God. A word spoken by you when your conscience is clear, and your heart full of God's Spirit, is worth ten thousand words spoken in unbelief and sin."

In preparation for a great visitation, God may raise up many messengers, each preparing the way of the Lord in his own way and appointed time. Is not God already looking for those messengers who will be the forerunners to blaze the trail of revival? Is He not looking for those persons who have the stamp of Elijah, who, with the hand of the Lord upon them, gather Israel on Mt. Carmel to face the challenges of the Baals and say to all Israel "How long will you stand between two opinions? If God be God, then follow Him; but if Baal, then follow Him..."

When God comes forth in His glory and splendor and power of revival, there are those voices who seek to prepare the way. "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple..." (Malachi 3:1). God will raise up a herald for the hour of preparation! Those whom God calls to such a ministry — and a call is essential — must be prepared for a pathway of unpopularity and sometimes, misunderstanding. King Ahab addressed Elijah "Thou troubler of Israel" according to 1 Kings 18:17.

John the Baptist was a forerunner of the Messiah, seeking to prepare the way that his people might be ready to receive "the Anointed One" of God. Standing alone as the champion of righteousness, he unmasked the hypocrisy of the religionists and even denounced the sin of the king. He was a voice who denounced sin and exposed the shallow traditions that had become substitutes for a vital faith in God. He sealed his ministry with his blood, yet he succeeded in preparing the way of the Lord. "...Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist:..." (Matthew 11:11). Truly, a forerunner, an instrument to be used of God, must be one who can say "...truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin" (Micah 3:8).

The state of the wilderness, with its valleys and mountains, its crooked and rough places will be transformed into a royal highway of divine visitation, and His glory shall be revealed to all people and nations!

Jeremiah was another voice who came upon the scene of Israel's history in the dark days of spiritual decline and moral bankruptcy. With the "word of the Lord" burning in his

bones, Jeremiah stood before his people with words of fearless judgment and a call to repentance. Stumbling blocks of iniquity had to be taken up and stones of unbelief had to be gathered out if the way of the Lord was to be prepared. His fearless ministry helped to check the evils of the time, and prepare the way for a reviving that he did not live to see when it came in the post-exile years under Ezra and Nehemiah.

Called of God to take this message, Jeremiah resisted, knowing the opposition he would face and that the message of God cut across the popular religious practices of the people and that he would be viewed as their enemy because his message and the popular religious message of the prophets and religious leaders did not square with each other. "...I cannot speak: for I am a child" (Jeremiah 1:6). But God told him He would give him a face of brass against the people: "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 1:8). How we need those men and women who will stand in the gap like Jeremiah and proclaim the whole truth of God even if it is unpopular in our secular culture!

John the Baptist preached grace, but he also preached that men were sinners and must repent. "The axe is laid unto the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10). Some came to be baptized who didn't show any evidence of a changed heart toward sin and a pagan life style. His words were sharp and to the point, saying: "...O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matthew 3:7–8).

In every great move of God, there are those He chooses to go before and break the ground, to sow the seed of repentance, of grace and judgment. They longed to see the mighty working of God in the lives of their fellowmen. Convinced and convicted of God's truth proclaimed in Jesus Christ, they were often ordinary mortals who were chosen by God and empowered by God to go forth in the boldness of the Spirit. When their adversaries "...saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

What God did for the apostles of old He is able and willing to do for us today! Where spiritual things are concerned, the power and the wisdom of man are of no importance, but only the power and wisdom of God — that God is all, and is waiting to bestow His fullness upon them, who through love of Christ, have humbled and emptied their hearts and are desirous only that their Saviour and Lord should be glorified in their lives! Then and only then will we see the realization among us: "So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed" (Acts 19:20).

Taken at My Word

by Frieda Craft

"Lord, I make myself available.
I give my all to you.
Lead me down the paths I should go.
Whatever you say, I'll do."

"Take all the things in my life
That are of any importance to me
And use them for your service,
So others, your glory will see."

I prayed this prayer to God
With an open and sincere desire,
That He would use whatever He could
And try my soul with fire.

But I never *really* considered
That there were things He might take away,
Things that had never been given completely to Him,
Things with which *I* wanted to play.

And when life didn't go just as I had planned.
I grew quite obviously distraught
"God, do you really know what you're doing? Are you listening to me?
I don't need *that* lesson taught!"

But He reminded me of my promise
To give it all to Him
And He said, "If you'll just trust me.
I'll show you where to begin."

Quite honestly, I was reluctant.
And even a little bit scared,
But I took the Lord at his Word
And I cast on Him all of my cares.

Then suddenly, before I knew it,
God had provided the peace I required.
He gave to me the greatest of blessings
And granted all my desires.

No, I never really imagined
That He'd take me at my word;
Yet when He did and when I did,
Something miraculous occured.

Beginning within my soul
My entire life turned upside down.
Why, I'd been facing in the wrong direction!
He *had* to turn me around.

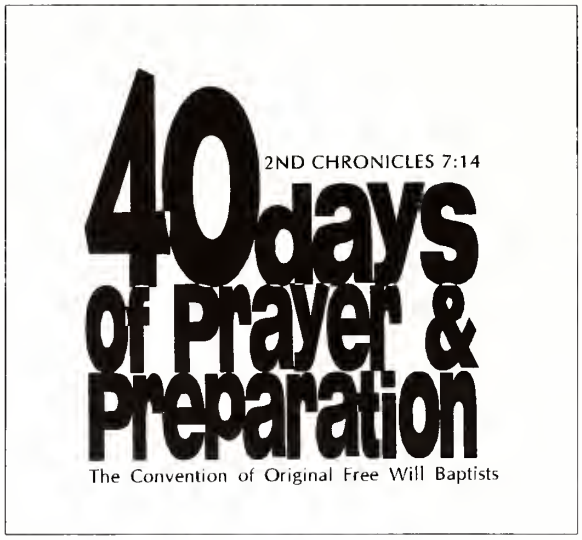
Now, it really wasn't easy,
To commit to that prayer I said;
But I found when I believed His promises,
There was no where to get but **Ahead.**

So don't forget when you ask God for something
And commit to follow His call,
Be prepared for Him to take you at your word
Or else just don't ask at all.

But remember, if you neglect to ask,
You'll miss out on blessings God has wrought.
For He doesn't do anything halfway.
New life to you He has brought.

I can only stand thankful at this moment,
That on that day God heard
The prayer of my heart for service,
And that I was fully taken at my word.

Please unite with the rest of the churches in the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in asking God for these requests:



August 7

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
The Convention Task Force

August 8

The Officers of the Convention:
Ray Wells, President
Leon Grubbs, Vice President
Buddy Sasser, Secretary
Ronnie Hobgood, Treasurer
The Convention Executive Committee

August 9

Convention Executive Administrator
W. Scott Sowers

August 10: A Day of Prayer

God's Vision for Original Free Will Baptists
God's Vision for Your Local Church
The Church Using Its Spiritual Gifts
Neighbors, Co-workers Who Need Christ

August 11

FWB Children's Home
Dr. Bobby Taylor, Executive Director
The Children and Staff
The Board of Directors

August 12

Church Finance Association
Don Fader, Executive Director
Michelle Weatherington, Secretary
Board

August 13

Foreign Missions
Harold Jones, Executive Director
Sandra Jones, Secretary
Missionaries and Native Pastor/Workers
Mission Churches
Board

August 14

Home Missions and Evangelism
David C. Hansely, Executive Director
Andrea Cox, Secretary
Church Planters/ Directors
Mission Churches
Board

August 15

Minister's Program
Don Fader, Executive Director
Board

August 16

Cragmont Assembly
John Williams, Manager
Arlinda Williams, Assistant Manager
Phyllis Rodgers, Secretary
Staff and Workers
Conference Personnel
Board

August 17: Day of Stewardship

Stewardship in All Things
Your Minister
Your Church Staff
Your Church Leaders
The Members of Your Local Church

August 18

Mount Olive College
Dr. William Byrd, President
Administration, Faculty, and Staff
Students
Board

August 19

Retirement Homes
Bruce Dudley, Executive Director
Michelle Fordham, Secretary
Retirees
Board

August 20

Sunday School Ministry
Mary Dudley, Director
Board

August 21

Your Local Sunday School
Your Sunday School Superintendent
Your Sunday School Teacher

August 22

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation
R. Clifford Gray, Executive Director
Management, Staff, Writers
Board

August 23

State Youth Convention
Tara Harrison, President
Marth Parsons, Youth Chairman
Your Local Church Youth
Your Local Church Youth Workers
Strengthening of Youth's Spiritual Lives

August 24: Day of Celebration

Great Joy in Serving Jesus
Motivation for a Life of Praise
Family and Friends

August 25

Conference Moderators

August 26

Conference Ordaining Councils

August 27

North Carolina Layman's League Convention
John Newton, President

August 28

Your Local Layman's League

August 29

State League Convention
Training Ministries

August 30

Conference Leadership
God's Vision for the Local Conference

August 31: Day of Commitment

Surrender to God's Will

September 1

Having the Attitude of Christ

September 2

Possessing a Forgiving Attitude

September 3

Healing and Restoration for Broken Homes

September 4

Development of a Rock-solid Faith

September 5

To Be a Better Listener to God and His People

September 6

Personal Commitment

September 7: Day of Surrender

Free Will Baptist Ministers
Retired Ministers
Minister's Families

September 8

Licensed Ministers and Their Families

September 9

Willingness to Respond to the Call to Ministry

September 10

Development of Church Leadership

September 11

Calling, Equipping, and Sending of Leaders
Churches without Pastors
Struggling Churches

September 12

Personal Commitment to God's Will for Original Free Will Baptists

September 13

Your Church
Your Pastor

September 14: Day of Spiritual Renewal

Your Church Delegates to the 1997 Convention
All Who Will Attend the Convention

September 15

Officers of the Convention:
President, Ray Wells
Vice President, Leon Grubbs
Secretary, Buddy Sasser
Treasurer, Ronnie V. Hobgood
The Executive Administrator: W. Scott Sowers
Convention Speakers:
Walt Tyndall, Wayne King, Rudy Owens, and Earl Glenn



Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513: (919) 746–4963

Eighty-fifth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997

7:30 Night of Evangelism, the Rev. Walt Tyndall, Speaker

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

8:00 Bible Study, the Rev. Wayne King

8:30 Registration of Ministers and Delegates

8:55 Convention Called to Order, the Rev. Buddy Sasser, Secretary
Congregational Singing
Scripture and Prayer, James Bogle
Welcome

9:10 President's Remarks, the Rev. Ray Wells, President
Appointment of Committees

9:20 Executive Committee Report, the Rev. Buddy Sasser, Secretary

9:25 Financial Report, the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, Treasurer

9:30 Executive Administrator's Report, the Rev. W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

9:40 Nominating Committe Report, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Chairman

9:50 Congregational Singing
Special Music

10:00 Children's Home Report, Dr. Bobby Taylor

10:10 Church Finance Association Report, the Rev. Don Fader

10:20 Cragmont Assembly Report, the Rev. John Williams

10:30 Foreign Missions Report, the Rev. Harold Jones

10:40 Break

10:50 Worship Service, the Rev. Rudy Owens

11:45 Miscellaneous Business
Floor Open for Nominations

12:00 Recess for Lunch

1:15 Registration Re-Opens

1:30 Congregational Singing
Scripture and Prayer, Brad Williamson

1:40 Recognition of Conference Moderators, New Churches, and New Ministers

1:50 Recognition of Fraternal Delegates, the Rev. W. Scott Sowers

2:00 Free Will Baptist Press Report, Mr. R. Clifford Gray

2:10 Home Missions and Evangelism Report, the Rev. David C. Hansley

2:20 Minister's Program Report, the Rev. Don Fader

2:40 Break

2:50 Mount Olive College Report, Dr. William Byrd

3:00 Retirment Homes Report, the Rev. Bruce Dudley

3:10 Sunday School Ministry Report, Mrs. Mary Dudley

3:20 Project Solution Task Force Committee Report, the Rev. C. H. Overman

3:30 Benedition

Several optional free workshops will be offered from 4–5 PM.

WEDNESDAY EVENING: MISSION RALLY, 7:30 PM

Reception in honor of 25th Anniversary of the current Board of Home Missions and Evangelism following the Rally.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1997

8:00 Bible Study, the Rev. Wayne King

8:30 Final Registration

8:55 Congregational Singing

9:05 Scripture and Prayer, Tony Glass

9:10 Chaplain's Commission Report

9:15 Ministerial Association Report, the Rev. Harold Swinson, President

9:20 Woman's Auxiliary Report, Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan, President

9:25 Carolina Bible Institute Report, Dr. Floyd Cherry

9:30 Camp Vandemere Report, Mr. Aldric Gaskins, Director

9:35 Historical Commission Report, Dr. Michael Pelt

9:40 League Convention Report, Miss Becky Jo Sumner

9:45 Obituary Committee Report, the Rev. Everette Harper

9:50 Report of the Credentials Committee, the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Chairman

9:55 Break

10:10 Worship Service, the Rev. Earl Glenn, Speaker

11:00 Resolutions Committee Report, the Rev. Robert May, Chairman

11:10 Miscellaneous Business
Elections to Fill Vacancies

12:00 Closing Ceremony
Scripture and Prayer, Neal Cox

If required, an afternoon session will be conducted for the transaction of business.

The First Annual Leadership Endowment

The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow and the late Alice Herget Barrow were honored at the first annual Leadership Endowment Dinner and Worship Service by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists on Friday, May 30, 1997, at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kinston. The dinner was held in the Fellowship Building, where over 70 friends and family members gathered to share in the meal and tribute to brother Barrow.



Near the close of the Worship Service, Mr. Barrow graciously expressed his appreciation to all who responded and contributed to the Endowment.

The Worship Service which began at 7 PM was held in the sanctuary. More than 100 people participated in the worship of God and in recognition of His servants Bruce and Alice Barrow. The Rev. Ray Wells, convention president, led the program of worship. The Rev. Leon Grubbs prayed the prayer of invocation. A presentation regarding Bruce Barrow's role as a denominational leader was presented by Dr. Michael Pelt. Mrs. Nina Grace Register of First Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston, and Mrs. Margaret May of Marlboro Free Will Baptist Church of Farmville spoke about Rev. Barrow as pastor. N. B. "Tex" Barrow, Jr. shared a perspective as a member of the family. The Rev. W. Scott Sowers spoke about Rev. Barrow as a servant leader.

The Rev. Wells presented brother Barrow with a plaque from the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in recognition of his service to the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. He also presented a letter and proclamation from James B. Hunt Jr., governor of the State of North Carolina, proclaiming May 30, 1997 as the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow Day in North Carolina.



Rev. Wells presented brother Barrow with a plaque from the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists denomination.

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has received to date $5,200 for the Leadership Endowment in honor of Bruce and Alice Barrow. The endowment is on deposit with Church Finance Association. The principle will always remain in the endowment as a tribute to the Barrows and the earnings can be used to help carry on the work of the Convention.

The Rev. Nigle Bruce Barrow

Birth: 10–23–1911, Greene County, North Carolina

Education: Snow Hill High School, Snow Hill, NC; Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Il; Northern Baptist Seminary; North Park College; Lewis Institute; Chicago Presbyterian College; and Texas A&M

Ordination to Gospel Ministry: Fifth Saturday, September 1935, by the Central Conference of the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists (preached four years prior to ordination).

Offices Held: Union Meeting - Moderator; Central Conference - Moderator, Ordaining Council; North Carolina State Convention - Moderator; Texas State Convention - Moderator; and National Association - Moderator

Membership on Boards: Mission Board; Mount Olive College Board of Trustees; Free Will Baptist Press Board; and Free Will Baptist Minister's Program Board

Ministry Service:

Denominational: Free Will Baptist Children's Home; Free Will Baptist Press Foundation - Manager, 1960–66; Helped to plant 34 new churches; Cragmont Assembly

Churches Served: First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, NC; Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church, Sims, NC; Rock Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson County, NC; Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church, Lenoir County, NC; Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church, Craven County, NC; White Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Lenoir County, NC; British Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Lenoir County, NC; Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Lenoir County, NC; Moseley's Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Craven County, NC; Beaufort Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, NC; Stacy Free Will Baptist Church, Carteret County, NC; Sea Level Free Will Baptist Church; Carteret County, NC; Sound View Free Will Baptist Church, Carteret County, NC; Saratoga Free Will Baptist Church, Saratogo, NC; Owen's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson County, NC; Little Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Greene County, NC; Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama, NC; Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church; Wayne County, NC; Indian Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Wayne County, NC; Bryan Free Will Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas; Casey's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Wayne County, NC; St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson County, NC; La Grange Free Will Baptist Church, La Grange, NC; Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church, Duplin County, NC; Sarecta Free Will Baptist Church, Duplin County, NC; Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Duplin County, NC; Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church, Martin County, NC; Rains Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church, Johnston County, NC; Micro Free Will Baptist Church, Johnston County, NC; Marlboro Free Will Baptist Church, Pitt County, NC; Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Duplin County, NC; and Grant's Chapel Free Will Baptist church, Wayne County, NC.

Other Honors: Listed in *Who's Who in America.*

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

Excitement in the Air

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

I am reminded of a song that says, "Get all excited go tell everybody that Jesus Christ is King." I am excited. Recently I had the honor of going to Camp Vandemere and speaking to a group of young people. These young people had been very excited earlier in the day as they were swimming and playing games. When it came time for the worship service, they were just as excited to stop their fun time and worship the Lord. They all joined in and sang choruses, and then they sat quietly when the message was being spoken. Their joy and enthusiasm was great to watch. The Rev. Ralph Sumner was the director for the week and he had a great group from his church. Ralph had not originally planned to have a week of camp, but when one of the other weeks was canceled, he decided that instead of disappointing those from his church who had already planned to go, he would do his best to direct a week.

The camp looks very nice. The grass has been mowed, the buildings are sparkling from the new paint, carpet, beds, and all the other things that have been done. The lobby of the dorm looks especially nice with the white walls and the blue carpet. On one wall we have a painted mural, thanks to Mrs. Ginny Conner of Holly Springs Church. The mural depicts a scene of the Rapture showing two young people walking down a road, with one being lifted up and the other one left. In the background you can see an angel blowing a trumpet. This serves to remind us of the reason for Camp Vandemere.

If you haven't been to camp, you owe it to yourself to go and take a look around. Many have gone recently that had not been in years, and they are very pleased with the progress that the camp has made. Much of the progress that has been accomplished is due to the hard work of our manager and his wife.

Don't forget that we have the family lodge that is available for you to rent. It is available for overnight stay, weekends, or even for a full week. We also have some camping sites if you would like to bring your camper for a few days. Bring your fishing rod and try your luck fishing from our pier. You might just want to bring your lawn chairs out by the river and enjoy the breeze as well as the beauty that the Lord has so graciously provided.

Let me share with you something that I am very excited about. You may think I am a little foolish to get excited about what I am about to tell you, but after having to deal with how to mow seven-plus acres, maybe you will understand. We have just purchased a used Massey Ferguson 230 diesel tractor. After we purchased the tractor, someone donated a brand new six foot mower to be used with the tractor. Thus the camp can be mowed in about half the usual time. Not only am I excited about the time we will save, but I am equally excited about being able to purchase the tractor. There has been a time that this would have only been a dream, because the funds would not have been available. It is through your love and generosity that we were able to do this. Those who helped on our cleanup days with their mowers can appreciate how the camp feels about this new purchase. I would like to say to all the many friends of the camp, Thank You so much for your prayers and support.

I am just as excited about the other weeks of camp. I believe that each week is going to be just as nice as the one before it. If you haven't made plans to send your young people to camp, please do it soon. Each director needs to know so they will know how to plan for their week.

Don't forget our first annual gospel sing on Saturday, August ninth. It will start at 10:00 AM and go until. We will have the big tent from Home Missions, so make plans to come be with us that day. We will have chairs set up, but you might want to bring your lawn chairs just in case all these are full. There will be fish plates available as well as hamburgers and hot dogs. Our concession stand will be open for you to purchase drinks, candy, and chips. There will be no admission charge for this event, but we will receive an offering to help Camp Vandemere. The groups are donating their time and each group will have their tapes and other items for sale. They are all coming to sing and lift up the name of the Lord, and it promises to be an exciting day. "Ya'll Come"!!

We could use some volunteers to help us with all this. We will be putting the big tent up on Saturday, August 2, and we need about a dozen good helpers for this. The camp will provide lunch for you. Some other areas we will need help in is cooking the fish as well as the hamburgers and hot dogs. We will need some to start early that

morning with making slaw and getting things ready for those who cook. Our board members will be helping, but we sure could use your help. Another area we will need help is with the parking, and later that day with the clean up. If you can help us even for a couple of hours, please contact our manager or the chairman of our board.

We have several projects that a church, a Sunday school class, or a group could adopt for the camp. One of our urgent projects is a new air conditioner for the kitchen-dining hall. The one we presently have has served us well for several years, but it is not functioning as well as it should. It has already given us trouble and we had to call the repairman. Pray about this and ask the Lord if he would like for you to help us with the project. When we purchase another unit, we would like for it to have good heating abilities so we can use this building year round. Continue to remember the camp, its staff, and the board in your prayers.

Yes, there is excitement in the air at Camp Vandemere, and I believe it's contagious. If you will come and visit us at the camp, I believe you will feel the excitement and get enthused about what the Lord is doing with our young people at Camp Vandemere.

Manager:
Mr. Aldric Gaskins
Camp Phone: 919–745–3171
Home Phone: 919–637–4949

Chairman:
The Rev. Owen Arthur
Phone: 919–633–1185

Treasurer:
Mrs. Judith Kennedy
933–N N.C. 41
Pink Hill, NC 28572
Phone: 910–298–4311



Camp Vandemere's First Annual Singin' By The River

Saturday, August 9
10:00 AM until

Featuring:
The Four In Christ Quartet
The Second Edition Quartet
Mark & Elaine • Covenant
New Horizon Quartet • Trinity

RAIN or SHINE under the Big Tent

Bring your Fishin' Poles & Lawn Chairs

Bring Your Neighbor, Bring Your Friend
All Are Welcome

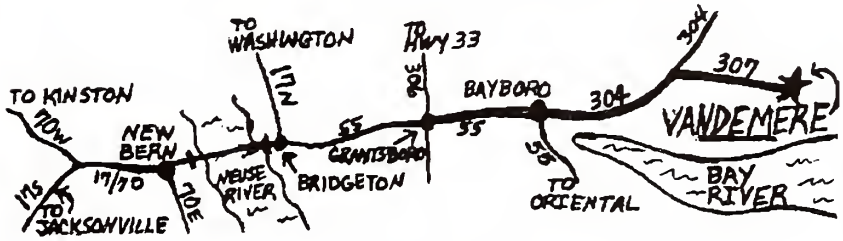
Worship, Fun, Food and Fellowship for the Entire Family

A love offering will be recieved
All proceeds will go to the Camp to help with restorations from last year's storms.

Camp Vandemere is a Christian family campground, owned by the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina. Our mission is to reach as many people for the Lord as possible. We invite and encourage **ALL** of you to visit us.

For more informtion call:
919–633–1185; 919–637–0231; 919–745–3171; 919–637–4949

FROM NEW BERN/BRIDGETON/TAKE 55 EAST TO BAYBORO, THEN 304 TO 307 TO VANDEMERE, NC.



Camp Vandemere, P.O. Box 188, Vandemere, NC 28587
919–745–3171

Layman's League

Spiritual Life Retreat

The Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat was held June 5–6, 1997, at Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC. The Retreat was well attended, as indicated by the picture below.



Speakers during the retreat were (L–R): Mr. I.Z. (Bud) Cobb, the Rev. David Parrish, and the Rev. Frank R. Harrison.



Central Conference Layman's League

The Central Conference Layman's League met June 1, 1997, at Harrells Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, with an attendance of about 100.



A highlight of the meeting is the meal that is served prior to the business session. It is a time of fellowship that is enjoyed by all.



The men gather for the worship service and business session in the sanctuary at Harrell's Chapel.

Dates to Remember

August 7	Layman's League Executive Board meeting at Convention Headquarters, Ayden	7:30 PM
	Camp Vandemere Gospel Sing	
August 18	Eastern Conference Layman's League, Camp Vandemere	7:30 PM
September 8	Central Conference Layman's League, First Church, Greenville	
	Meal	7:00 PM
	Business	7:45 PM
September 14	Layman's League Promotional Board, Convention Headquarters, Ayden	7:30 PM

Home Missions & Evangelism

Update... Church Planting Celebration



We are excited to share the good news that God is providing us the wonderful opportunity to EXPAND HIS KINGDOM by beginning a new work in Havelock, North Carolina. For more than three (3) years the attention of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism has been drawn toward planting a Mission/Church in the Cherry Point area.

Several weeks ago, more than twenty four (24) persons met in a restaurant to discuss the possibility of beginning. Following the meeting, through much research and prayer, the Board decided to begin a Bible Study as soon as a place for meeting could be obtained. Today, more than thirty-eight (38) precious souls, adults and children, have committed to attending. A building has been secured in the Slocum Shopping Center, 30 Park Lane — Building A & B.

Dr. A. Graham Lane will be leading the Bible Study each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. This group will remain as a Bible Study until they have had ample time to develop into Mission/Church status.

On Tuesday, July 15, 1997, at 7:30 PM, a Church Planting Celebration was held. Officers from the Fifth Union, Eastern Conference, Convention of Original Free Will Baptist and the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism participated in this historical celebration service.

The Unacceptables

Scouting continues to be known for its traditional objectives in youth education: character-building, citizenship-training, self-reliance, outdoor adventure, patriotism, and respect for others. These values that have helped build America will help keep it strong, and therefore will always remain fundamental to Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America had identified five unacceptables in today's society: drug abuse, child abuse, illiteracy, unemployment, and hunger. The devastating impact caused by these conditions is a serious threat. Scouting's almost 5 million youth and adult leaders are attempting to be of even greater service to the communities and neighborhoods of America by dealing with these critical issues.

Scouting has always been involved in America's communities, its strength and appeal lying in the fact that the nature of its involvement has reflected the changes in American society. Changes now come faster and with more frequency than in the past, but the mission of the BSA — to serve others by helping to instill values — never changes. The BSA's dedication to fight these unacceptables is upheld by the Scouting Promise and Law.

For information on how your church can participate in thwarting the oppression brought by illiteracy, hunger, unemployment, child abuse and drug abuse, contact the Scouting Commission of Original Free Will Baptists, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, (919) 746–4963, Fax (919) 746–8913.

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism will celebrate its 25th Anniversary at our 1997 Annual Convention in September.

This year, we are responsible for providing the program for the Mission Rally on Wednesday evening. Plans are to have a Rally that the entire church family will want to attend. Every organization within the church will have an opportunity to help EXPAND HIS KINGDOM through this 25th Celebration. Begin making plans now to attend the 1997 Mission Rally conducted by Home Missions and Evangelism on Wednesday evening, September 17.

The Spirit Is Here

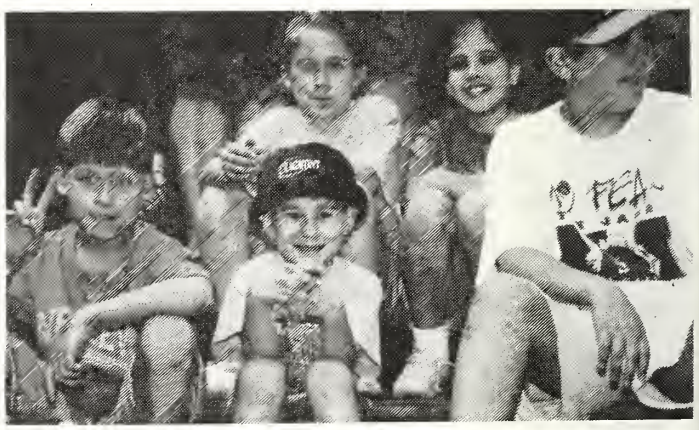
Cragmont has different personalities during the seasons but it is always "The People Place." During the spring, Cragmont serves our people as a retreat. It is a place for church groups to come and fellowship and worship under a different and powerful setting: the quiet mountains of Western North Carolina. During the spring the groups usually come on the weekends and usually spend their time resting and relaxing, sightseeing, and coming together in a different way than at home. Cragmont encourages people to interact differently because in this place everyone lives in the same place. Everyone eats here, sleeps here, plays here. Everyone worships here, sings here, prays here. It's like church except when the service is over the fellowship doesn't end with people going home, going their separate ways ... they are home. And God's Spirit is here with them.

With the beginning of June we have the beginning of the summer conferences. Cragmont is a much different place now, but it's still the "People Place." now the fellowship lasts a whole week not just a weekend. Kids and adults alike are here to celebrate God through games, classes, music and just plain fun. It's a time not for retreat, but also for instruction and decision. Many youth make their first profession of faith here. Many adults and youth rededicate their lives, answering the Call. Some go home with seeds of the gospel in their he arts and minds. All meet God here because His Spirit is in this place.

So far, the summer conferences have gone smoothly and with great weather. The campers have been treated to several improvements to the facility including decks which have been built onto the end of the dorms and the Floyd House and new stalls placed around the commodes in the Floyd House. Because we have not been using LeGrange Bus Company for camp weeks this summer, there has been concern about transportation. But each camp director has made the most of the situation, and all have come up with solutions. God is certainly with us in this ministry.



Cragmont is a place for our youth to grow in Christ.



Cragmont is truly a "People Place."



Being at Cragmont can make you all smiles.



It's always hard to say goodbye to new friends.

News Letter from India and Nepal

by Dr. E. M. Lall

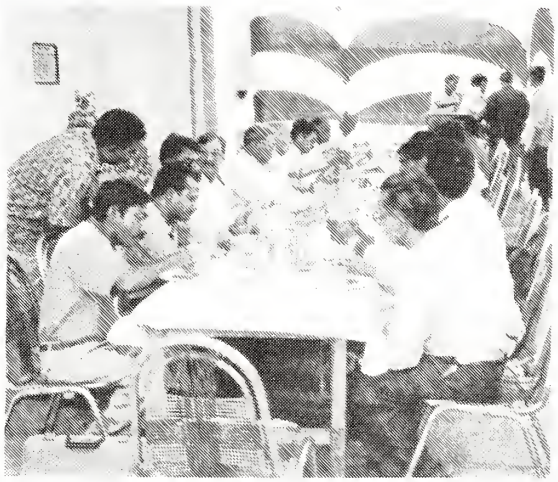
It is a pleasure to report that we plan to construct two chapels in the country of Nepal, one at Olani in the circuit of the Rev. Harka Bahadur Kaini about fifty miles from the India Border and the other one in the circuit of Mahendranagar. The chapel is located in the circuit of Olani, seven miles in the interior, where we have an English Medium elementary school. It is proposed to build a two-room parsonage near the chapel, thus forming a small Free Will Baptist Church compound. In the circuit of Mahendranagar only one chapel will be constructed. At both these places, there are good congregations, but of the poorest of poor. The construction will start after June 3, 1997. Both the congregations at Mahendranagar and Olani have expressed their thanks to the Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina which was so considerate in meeting this need so soon. They are also thankful to the Board of Missions for their endeavors to provide them with a worship place.

It is experienced by our church ministers, who have voluntarily accepted complete self support with restraint, that some avenues are coming up beyond imagination toward their support. Two instances have recently come to notice pertaining to the Free Will Baptist Church at Bareilly that a member of the church in the name of Lt. Col. Massey has raised his church funds to Rs. 500.00 per month and sent a cheque for Rs. 1000.00 for the months of May and June, 1997. Another instance is that of Danny McGill, an Honorary Deacon of our church, who was trained at Delhi Bible College, has been able to start his own shop of selected audio cassettes, CD's, car stereos, speakers, in the main market of prime location. This young man remains engaged with church work on Saturday and Sunday. He is a very active worker of our church.

Our church is providing leadership to other denominational churches in North India, for the cause of Christian unity. It is vital to keep the churches alive in the wake of hitherto rise of communalism. All the churches came together for a meeting on May 19, 1997, for discussion and resolution to be one in the name of Christianity. Dr. Lall, while inaugurating the first historic meeting on "Christian Unity" said "Unity of the Church is not our ultimate goal. Unity of the Church is only a forecast and first fruits of the total unity of humankind" (see Revelation 7:9). The church becomes the symbol of unity which is closely related to whole creation. The Church must achieve in her own life integrated community, transcending barriers of religious fundamentalism, casteism, linguism and social classism.

Our church work is just growing and is being called the living and witnessing church of Northern India. The Lord is blessing us in a special way that we could hardly think of. The Original Free Will Baptists in the United States are a part of this religious thrust through their help in prayers. Plans are under way to build three churches in urban cities like Delhi, the capital of the country; Agra, the city of Taj Mahal; and Rudrapur, in the foot of Himalayas. We shall be leading an evangelistic campaign in the ensuing month of June 1997 and are so thrilled to achieve the goal beyond expectation!

We covet your prayers for the great task ahead of us.



All Christian leaders of Bareilly at lunch on May 19, 1997 after meeting of Christian Unity.



Bishop Anthony Fernandez speaks on Christian Unity on May 19, 1997 at the Free Will Baptist Church in Bareilly.



Children sang a song as leaders were gathering.

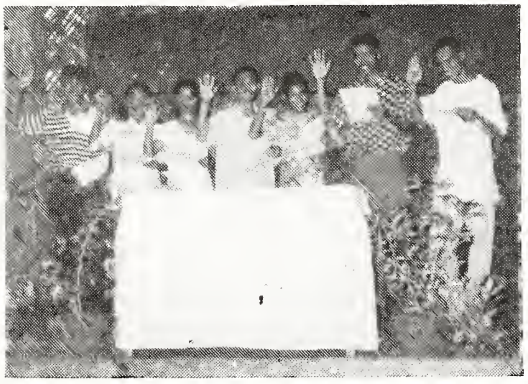
Induction of Officers Philippines

by Rev. Dario Basingil

On February 9, 1997, the Tabon Free Will Baptist Church located in Barangay Tabon, Quezon, Palawan, held a special service to induct the officers of the youth group. The Rev. Dario Basingil and his wife Susan were invited to attend.

The Rev. Basingil conducted the service. His message was entitled "The Call" with Scripture taken from 1 Corinthians 1:1–9. The three main points of his message were: (1) Called to be saints: God has set them apart from unrighteousness; He has called them to be different as they follow Jesus. (2) Called to worship: it is a natural for Christians to get together to worship; by doing so, they show their love to God and express their trust in Him. (3) Called into fellowship: Christians are called to serve God and one another. God gave His grace so that the fellowship will be enriched through the power of Christ, and the members will be strengthened.

The following people were inducted: Danilo Demin, President; Oliva Lansap, Vice President; Jocelyn Lansap, Secretary; Samuel Saldajeno, Treasurer; Aaron Damlino, Auditor; Enoch Lansap, CRO; and Sonny Saldajeno, CRO.

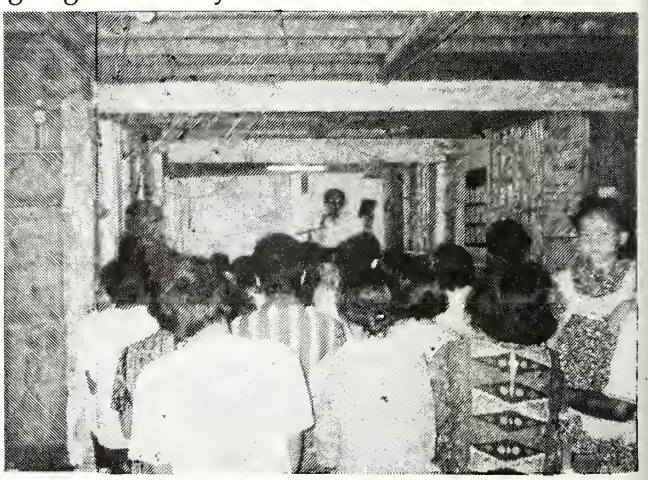


Free Will Baptist Church of Sagbayan, Bohol

by Zacarias I. Perocillo

Over a year ago, when the Rev. Harold Jones was in the Philippines, there was no Free Will Baptist Church in this part of the country. Thus, in the evening during that visit, we held an evangelistic crusade at the main entrance of the town's public market. After a few months of intensive visitations and follow-up, by God's grace, the contacts were formed into a congregation. The faithful couple, Pastor Alfonso and Julieta Marzon, toil day and night, that the plan of God may be manifested in that area. And the beautiful thing that is going on right now is: this main congregation gave birth to two more separate small congregations of the Free Will Baptist; one about eighteen kilometers away and the other, about seven kilometers away, all situated in the outskirts of Baranggay, the main church being located near the town plaza. These are the congregations which have been waiting for the jeep that will be used for the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Church in that area, since transportation in this part of the region is scarce, most specially on Sundays, Also, the congregation needed badly to purchase a lot to defray the expensive cost of rent. Even in this part of the country, rent is still very expensive. With the hope of putting up a kindergarten school, the congregation made a survey which resulted in a lot of prospective pupils for the kindergarten school, another project of the church which necessitates a building.

We are continually praying for more brethren who will be more touched by the Lord, and thereby share with us the burden of Church planting, now ongoing in the Visayas and Mindanao. We believe the believers in the body of Jesus Christ are the ones to finance the ministry and not the unbelievers. We need to see that now is the time to plant those seeds for that great harvest in the Philippines.



Attention: Rally Time Is Near!

The Annual Convention Mission Rally will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 1997, at 7:30 PM in College Hall, Mount Olive College. I encourage you to attend.

I also encourage you to begin to pray about your gift to Foreign Missions at the Rally. This ministry is expanding and seeing growth on every field. The Rally offering is a vital part of our yearly income.

Thank you for praying and for your faithful obedience to the Lord through your support for this ministry.

URGENT SPECIAL NOTICE SHORT-TERM TEAM OPPORTUNITIES 1998

Response needed by September 1, 1997

If you are considering joining a team in 1998, let me urge you to act today! Many have indicated an interest, but few have actually committed. We need to hear from you by September 1.

PHILIPPINES: This team will depart on April 17 and return on May 3, 1998. The team is open to those 18 years old and up. We need at least two people on this team who have skills in carpentry and masonry who would be responsible for directing the other team members in construction of either a parsonage or a church building.

We also need those interested in youth work, VBS, sports, music, preaching, personal evangelism, and other gifts that you can use in ministry. We can only take 15 people on this team.

MEXICO: One team will work in Mexico from June 13–23, 1998. Team members must be 13 years old and up. This team is almost full. We still, however, need a few people with skills in carpentry and masonry to join this team. This first team is responsible for the major construction part of the building. Team members not involved in construction will conduct VBS, prayer walks, skits, puppets, etc.

The second team will work in Mexico from July 11–21, 1998. There are still openings for this team, but many have indicated their intent to join. You need to act today! We will process applications in the order they are received until all places are filled. We can only take thirty people. This team will finish the building and be involved in various other ministries.

CALLING DOCTORS AND DENTISTS: We could use doctors or dentists on our Short-Term Teams who would be willing to give their services to minister to the people on our mission fields. Dr. Don Ribeiro and his wife, Karen have ministered through medicine to hundreds of people in the past three years. This has been a life-enriching experience for them and has blessed the lives of many people.

If you are interested in any of these teams, act immediately! Call or write: Board of Foreign Missions, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; (919) 746–4963.

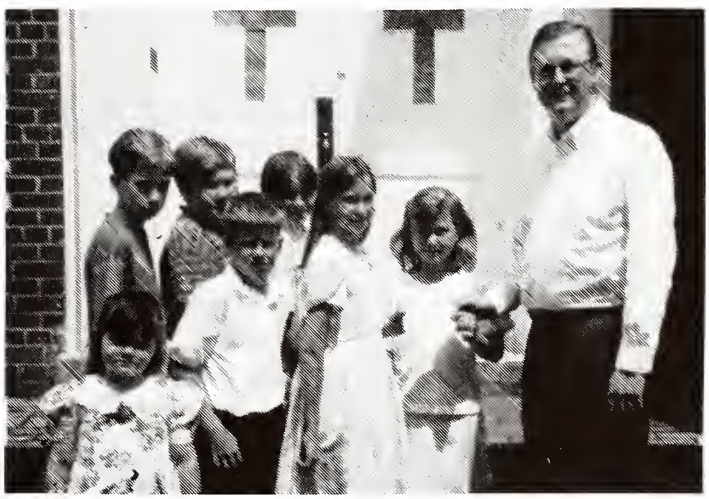
SPECIAL NOTE: Two orientation sessions are required for those who sign up to join a Short-Term Team.

"Change For Children" Presentation

Youth and family members of Edgewood Free Will Baptist Church of Macclesfield, NC presented their contribution for "Change for Children" on Sunday, May 29, 1997, to Dr. Bobby R. Taylor of the Children's Home. The Rev. Luther Bissette, Pastor, and members of the church met in Memorial Chapel Church after a tour of the campus. A discussion and questions highlighted their visit as they learned more about the ministry of the Children's Home.



Tour Group from Edgewood Free Will Baptist Church.



Youth present contributions from May — Change for Children Campaign

Thank you, Edgewood Free Will Baptist Church, for your contributions, support, and your visit to our campus. Your interest and hard work contributed to the success of our new campaign to save our coins for a special purpose.

Convention Promotion Month

August

SUN	MON	TUE	
27	28	29	30
3	**4** The James A. Evans Lecture, Theme: Reaching Secular People, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, 9:30 AM	**5** Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 AM	**6**
10	**11**	**12** Foreign Missions Board Meeting	**13**
17	**18**	**19** Home Missions and Evangelism Board Meeting Free Will Baptist Press Board Meeting	**20**
24 **31**	**25**	**26**	**27**

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	THU	FRI	SAT
	31	***1*** MOC Session B Ends	***2***
		August Woman's Conference at Cragmont	
ance Board 10:30 AM	***7*** Layman's League Executive Board 7:00 PM	***8***	***9*** Camp Vandemere's First Annual Singin' By The River, 10:00 AM – until
	14	***15***	***16*** 2nd Annual Family Day Kings Dominion
	21 7:30 PM Children's Home Board Meeting	***22***	***23*** Piedmont Conference, Friendly Chapel FWB Church, Greensboro, NC
lass Begins	***28***	***29***	***30*** **URGENT SPECIAL NOTICE: Short-Term Team Opportunities 1998 Response needed by September 1, 1997**

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

51st Alumni Homecoming Celebration

Almuni of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home will talk about this year's celebration for a long time. Smiles and laughter became a natural expression for those of us who enjoyed a weekend of rekindling relationships, shared experiences, good food, and the enlightening talent of Freddie Pierce, the speaker for Sunday's service.

Freddie Pierce, award-winning, author, speaker, and facilitator visited the campus with his friend "Richard." Together, they presented an inspiring and motivational opportunity to laugh and view life through their perspective. Freddie reminded us of the joys of life and the blessings we receive as we live each day. He is renowned for his unique talent to impress upon varied audiences the importance of valuing the positive side of everything in life. He was a very special guest to the Alumni and their families. He is an alumnus of Mount Olive College and uses his special ability as a ventriloquist to spread his message across the United States.

After lunch, catered by Parker's, young and old enjoyed many planned activities that included "Crackers the Clown," face painting, a horse and tram ride around the campus, swimming, softball, hugs, visits and old-fashioned fun.



The Alumni would like to thank Billy and Mary Hines for their gracious hospitality on Saturday evening. The gathering at their home gave us all a warm, welcomed spirit to begin our Homecoming festivities.

Homecoming always brings back memories. Reminiscing is one of our favorite pastimes for the Alumni of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Days gone by of difficult times, love and support for one another with lots of hard work, the episodes that brought joy and laughter give us reasons to reminisce. Remembering this special Homecoming will give us more special memories to talk about in years to come.

CHILD CARE SINCE 1920

Awards Banquet

Spirits were high as excitement and anticipation filled Heritage Hall during the End of School Awards Banquet on campus this June. Good food and fun were part of the celebration while students wondered who earned the top awards for the school year. Many awards were give to the students who earned the highest placement in Math, Science, Athletics, and other academic curricula.

Names were called, hands applauded, and T-Shirts were given as student after student proudly walked before the campus family to receive his/her recognition and award for hard work and successful achievements during the school year. The staff was pleased to see many students accept awards for improvement and lots of effort.

The Banquet was evidence of a successful school year for the students of the Children's Home. Hard work and support for each other encouraged everyone to set goals for the coming school year. Staff and members of the Children's Home family are proud of all the students this year and wish for them another successful year of learning in 1998.



Profile:
Tim Woodard — Right for the Job

He talks to everyone with a familiarity and warmth that most of us reserve for relatives and good friends.

No question about it — Tim Woodard is exactly the right person to be Mount Olive College's Director of Admissions.

He is a graduate of the College, experienced in college recruiting, a native son, a Free Will Baptist, a believer in what he is doing, and a genuine people person.

Timothy Eddie Woodard was raised and still lives in Johnston County's eastern most town of Princeton. He graduated from the College in 1987 receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Adminstration. While a student, he met and eventually married classmate Lydia Drumm from Swansboro.

He began his recruiting career immediately after graduation, becoming an Admissions Counselor under the tutelage of Dianne Riley. For the next six years, Tim learned the trade of helping students make up their minds about where they were going to college. During a portion of this same time, he also doubled as the College's golf coach from 1989 to 1992.

In 1993 Tim accepted an opportunity to step up at Johnston County Community College to be an admissions representative and golf coach. It was during his three years there that Tim developed an appreciation for North Carolina's community college system and its students. Insights from this experience help Tim now in attracting transfer students and degree-completion candidates to Mount Olive.



Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions and a deacon in his church, has a knack for answering questions and making people feel comfortable. Here Tim talks with Brad Massey from Tee's Chapel and Greg Thompson from Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Four Oaks during a recent orientation day.

When Dr. Byrd decided that he wanted Dianne Riley to energize the alumni effort, the College was fortunate to lure Tim back to take over the duties of Director of Admissions.

"Tim is a wonder ful person for the job," says his boss, Dr. Barbara Kornegay, Vice President of Enrollment. "He knows Mount Olive inside out. He is great with people and he learned from the master — Dianne Riley."

While at work, Tim is constantly in motion — a necessary attribute for anyone in admissions work. He is most often found in one of three situations: meeting with prospective students and their parents, on the telephone, or walking out the door to meet people on their turf.

Tim describes himself as easy going. He talks to everyone with a familiarity and warmth that most of us reserve for relatives and good friends. At the same time, he knows how to steer conversations to the important issues — personal goals, grades, and financing college. Having had hundreds of these conversations, he knows what to expect and how to remove obstacles.

Recruiting is not simply convincing a high school senior to select Mount Olive over an abundance of other colleges and universities. The process involves dealing with parents, principals, counselors, and coaches. Each has different concerns and issues that Tim seems to have a knack for anticipating and answering.

The fact that Tim grewup in the area helps, too.

Tim and his brother, Andy, are the sons of Eddie and Peggy Woodard. He was raised in Princeton, and this is where he and Lydia are raising their children, Brittany, age 6, Eddie Ryne, 2. Lydia is a pharmacist at Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro.

"I am blessed with a great wife and two

Right for the Job Cont....

great kids," Tim says. "And I am very fortunate to have had a Christian upbringing by my parents."

When he is not working, Tim says that he enjoys spending time with his kids, fishing, water skiing, and playing golf with his father, brother, and uncles.

Tim is also active in his church. He is a deacon at Rains Cross Roads FWB Church in Kenly. Being a Free Will Baptist makes him especially sensitive to the concerns of the Convention.

Perhaps, Tim's best qualification to be the College's Director of Admissions is that he is a believer in what he is doing.

"I really believe in the product," Tim says. "Attending Mount Olive College was a great experience for me, and I want to share it with others."

Although a big part of his job is bringing high school graduates to the College's traditional four-year program, he also has responsibilities for recruiting older students to Mount Olive's growing degree-completion programs.

"Mount Olive really offers a great opportunity for older students," Tim says. "Helping these students achieve a personal goal that might mean a pay raise or promotion is very satisfying."

"Tim makes people feel special and comfortable," said a colleague. "He is very good at providing the personal touch which is the trademark and often the difference why students pick Mount Olive."

Mount Olive College, the Free Will Baptist Church, and many students he influences in positive ways are fortunate to have Tim Woodard on the team.

No question about it, Tim is the right person for the job!



Eleven Free Will Baptist Students visisted Mount Olive College during a recent orientation. They are (front row L to R) Kristen Carroll, Wooten's Chapel; Mandy Vincent and Carrie Brown, Rock Springs; Melissa Modlin, Sidney; Heather Dills, May's Chapel; Alison Williams, Cragmont Assembly; Blake Evans, Free Union; (back row L to R) Ryan Batten, Wooten's Chapel; Michelle Taylor, Free Uhion; Nathan Stancil, Robert's Grove, and Danielle Jennings, Reedy Branch.



John and Arlinda Williams, both Mount Olive College graduates, brought their daughter, Alison, to Mount Olive "to look around." Showing off the campus is Admissions Counselor Phil Crawley. John is the director of Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC.

August At Mount Olive College

July 28–August 8
Registration for Fall I Term at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

August 4
The James A. Evans Lecture, Theme: Reaching Secular People, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, 9:30 AM

August 11
New Bern Cohort 26 Convocation, 5:00 PM
Fall I Term begins at Seymour Johnson AFB

August 18–22
College Conference: Preparation by faculty & staff

August 20
Wilmington Cohort 13 Convocation, 5:30 PM

August 23
Wilmington Cohort 14 Convocation, 8:00 AM
FWB State Youth Executive Board Meeting, Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

August 24
Residence halls open freshmen; SGA ice cream social

August 24–26
Freshman Orientation

August 26
Residence halls open for returning students & transfer students
Registration verification and orientation for transfers; SGA social

August 27
Classes begin

August 28
SGA outing to Kinston Indians baseball game

August 29–31
SGA trip to NC mountains

August 30
Women's soccer game vs. USC Aiken — Away
Men's soccer game vs. USC Aiken — Away
Choir Seminar, Rodgers Chapel, 10:00 AM –2:00 PM

Planning Sessions Scheduled for Fall Dinners

Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support at Mount Olive College, has announced the schedule for the Planning Sessions for the 1997 church dinners. At each of the Planning Sessions, literature will be distributed, information will be given about the College, and the date and location for each county dinner will be confirmed. Representatives from each church including the local chairperson and the pastor are encouraged to attend the Planning Session in their county.

1997 Mount Olive College Planning Sessions

Greene County, Thursday, August 7, 7:30 PM, Hull Road Church near Snow Hill.
Beaufort County, Friday, August 8, 7:30 PM, Memorial Church near Pinetown.
Nash County, Sunday, August 10, 3:00 PM, Free Union Church near Spring Hope.
Duplin County, Monday, August 11, 7:30 PM, Cabin Church near Beulaville.
Edgecombe County, Tuesday, August 12, 7:30 PM, Peace Church near Pinetops.
Wayne County, Thursday, August 14, 7:30 PM, First Church of Goldsboro.
Onslow–Brunswick Counties, Friday, August 15, 7:30 PM, Folkstone Church, Folkstone.
Jones County, Sunday, August 17, 3:00 PM, Whaley's Chapel Church near Richlands.
Lenoir County, Monday, August 18, 7:30 PM, First Church of Kinston.
Craven County, Tuesday, August 19, 7:30 PM, Saint Mary's Church, New Bern.
Sampson, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties, Thursday, August 21, 7:30 PM, Oak Grove Church near Newton Grove.
Pamlico County, Sunday, August 24, 7:30 PM, Rock of Zion Church, Grantsboro.
Pitt County, Monday, August 25, 7:30 PM, Reedy Branch Church near Winterville.
Wilson County, Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 PM, Daniel's Chapel Church near Wilson.
Washington, Martin, Tyrrell, and Pasquotank Counties, Thursday, August 28, 7:30 PM, Mount Tabor Church near Creswell.
Carteret County, Friday, August 29, 7:30 PM, Crab Point Church, Morehead City.
Johnston-Wake Counties, Tuesday, September 2, 7:30 PM, First Church of Smithfield.

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DENOMINATION

Pastor Earns Degree

On May 3, 1997, during commencement at Liberty University in Lynchburgk, VA, the Rev. Danny M. Smith received the M.A. degree in Religion with a concentration in counseling from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

The world's best-loved evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham brought the commencement address to a packed stadium of over 18,000 people. His sermon stressed investing in the lives of others.

Danny is pastor of Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, and is married to the former Margey Lee Crawford of Goldsboro. They have two children: Colleen, age 10 and Daniel, age 4. They make their home in Dudley, NC.

Sidney Sunday Schooler's Receive Awards

Sidney Free Will Baptist Church Sunday school, Belhaven, NC, recently recognized students who had achieved perfect attendance for the year. Pictured are (L to R front row): Tara Clayton, Carter Burbage and Kasey Clayton. Second row: Mary Beth Burbage, Kenneth Davis, Brooke Leigh, Callie Leigh, and Kendal Leigh. Back row: Kyle Burbage, Chad Poole, Edwin Godley, and Stephen Poole. Not pictured is Catherine Clayton. Chad Poole has achieved perfect attendance for 15 consecutive years and his brother Stephen has achieved perfect attendance for 18 consecutive years.



Powhatan Activities

by Rita Otto Jones

On May 18, a play entitled, "The Gates of Heaven," was performed for the congregation. Many hours of planning and practicing had been put in and it paid off! The play portrayed a backslidden family and how a dream about the gates of heaven changed their lives. The church was filled on Sunday evening. Many people came forward during the invitation and two were saved. Many thanks to Ginger Hill and Wanda Benson as directors and to all cast members. A "thank you" meal was given by the church members for the cast and workers on June 8. Due to the request made by visitors, the cast may agree to do an encore performance at a future date.

On May 28, Preacher Lloyd Hargis and his wife, Sandra, visited and shared stories of their visit to the Amish Country of Pennsylvania. He explained that they visited church services on Sunday with a family of Mennonites and described the differences and similarities in our beliefs and worship. He said the Amish in particular live separately from the world to remain pure. Everything in their lives revolves around their religion and family. One might envy their humble, simple life style and loving environment. He also asked that he and his wife be remembered as they begin God's work at Mt. Zion Church.

On June 1, graduating seniors were recognized during the morning worship service. Kelly Peedin and Mandy Ward of Clayton High School were challenged to stay close to God as they entered the "real world" of young adulthood.



Pastor Jim Bogle presented a Bible from the church to Kelly Peedin, graduating senior.

Powhatan members attended the Youth Rally held on June 7, at Tee's Chapel and received a blessing. Plans are being made for some of our young people to attend camp this summer.

Vicky Bagley still continues on her road to recovery from cancer and appreciates the prayers being offered on her behalf.

Centennial Celebrated

Grants Chapel Free Will Baptist Church of Seven Springs, NC, held its Centennial Celebration on Sunday, June 8, 1997.

Over one hundred (100) people attended the morning Worship service, including three former pastors and their wives and the widow of one former pastor.

The Rev. Michael Pelt was guest speaker. He reminded the congregation of the importance of its history in relationship to its heritage.

Special singers were Mr. and Mrs. Julian Graham of Florence, SC. She played piano, and also the flute. He played trumpet and our hearts were blessed as their voices blended in musical harmony.

Our guest choir was Indian Springs Free Will Baptist Church. Over the years they have faithfully attended our homecoming. Our appreciation and thanks for the job well done.

Grant's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church was constituted into a church on June 5, 1897. The first Pastor was Elder J. H. Hill and assistant Pastor was J. H. Mozingo. Original members were twenty-six (26) males and twenty-nine (29) females. Thus began one hundred years of continual service and much, much more. "To God be the Glory."

Cragmont Ministers' Conference

The Annual Cragmont Free Will Baptist Ministers' Conference was held June 9–12, 1997, with more than eighty ministers in attendance. Several of the minister's wives, children, and grandchildren were also present. Some ministers were not present when the picture was taken.

As usual, a spirit of fellowship and harmony prevailed during the Conference. There were excellent messages, good singing, and uplifting worship. The President of the Ministerial Association is the Rev. Harold Swinson, pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Pinetown, NC.



Piedmont Conference Quarterly Meeting

On June 28, 1997, the Piedmont Conference met for the quarterly meeting at Christ Free Will Baptist Church in Stokesdale, NC. We had good attendance and support by all ministers, churches, and lay persons. After conclusion of the business session and the morning worship service, a "July 4th" cookout was given by the host church. Great fellowship, hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmings were enjoyed by all!

The annual Piedmont Conference meeting will be held August 23, 1997, at Friendly Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC.



The Rev. David A. Atkins



Pictured in the foreground are the Revs. John Furr and Austin Carter.

Wild Frontier Bible Theme Park Comes to Daniels Chapel

by Johnny R. Sullivan, Youth/Music Director

Daniels Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, recently held its annual Vacation Bible School, June 23–27. It was truly a wonderful week!

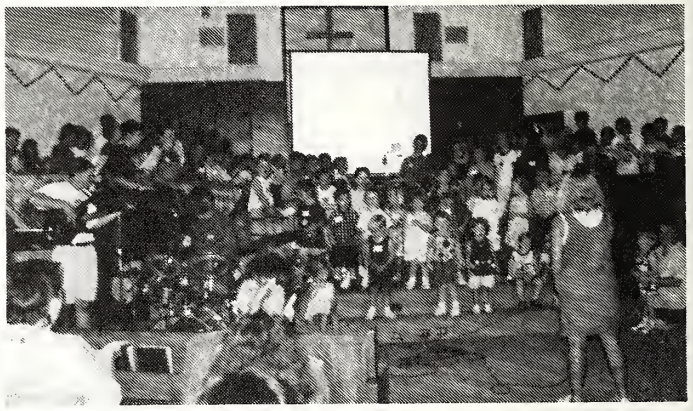
Attendance each night was great, with an average youth attendance of 98 and average staff attendance of 50.



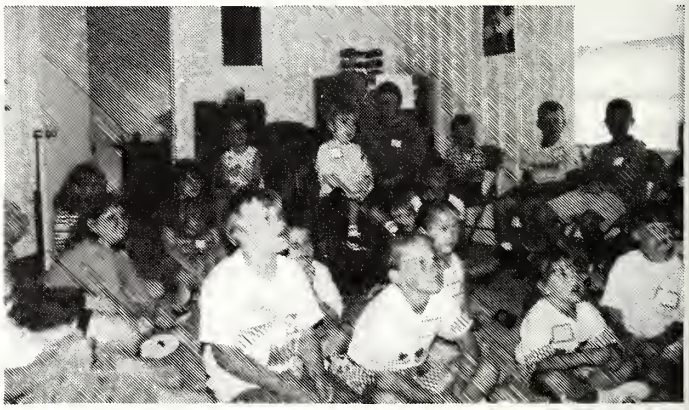
This year's theme was "The Wild Frontier Bible Theme Park." The students were divided into different Ride Crews called the "Sharpshooters," the "Rustlers," the "Cowboys," the "Prairie Dogs" and the "Lone Rangers." Each group visited attractions nightly with the daily Bible point being the emphasis. The Bible points each day focused on Jesus Christ's being the "Light of the World," "Loving and Forgiving," "Lord," the "Resurrection and the Life," and "Jesus is Good News."

The adults of the church participated in a class entitled "Unleashing the Power of Prayer." They worked daily on improving their individual prayer lives and put to use what they learned each night at the end of their session by having a time of prayer.

The week ended on a very high note on Sunday, June 29, as Youth Sunday was designated for Vacation Bible School Commencement. Hymns were sung, pledges made, and wonderful music shared with a full band during the morning worship service. Our youth left the congregation with the message, "God's Not Dead, NO, He is Alive!" Following the service, a covered dish lunch was shared by all in the Family Life Center.

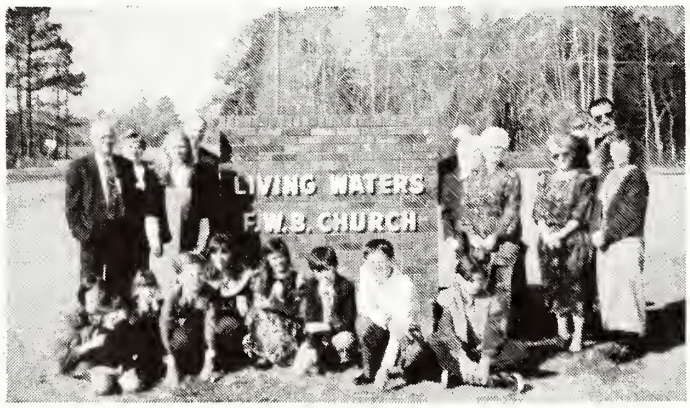


The Lord truly blessed our Church with a wonderful week of Bible School, but most important left a lasting impression with our youth and Church that Jesus is Lord, He is Alive, and Jesus is Good News!



Living Waters Emphasizes Church Growth

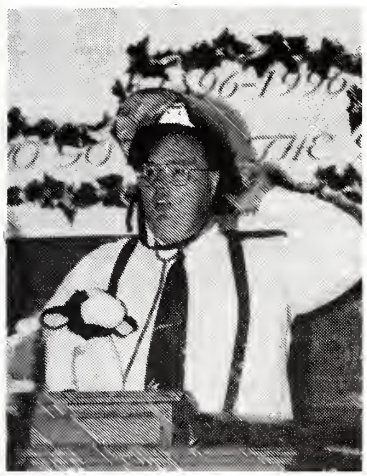
by Rev. Danny M. Smith, Pastor



During this past spring, Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, emphasized evangelism and church growth. On a designated Sunday (near the full moon) we experience a "rounding out" or "full attendence" in Sunday school. We gathered for a continental breakfast and began our Sunday school at 9:45 to allow students to recite memory verses. If they were successful in correctly saying three verses or the Lord's Prayer, they were awarded a big round, full "Space Jam" basketball. Basketballs were awarded to Dillon Fleming, Heather Johnson, and Colleen Smith.

Full attendence was achieved by having slightly over thirty present.

Mount Tabor Church Completes 50 - Day Spiritual Adventure



Pastor Pelletier gives a very special visual introduction to the message "The Church You're Always Longed for: Captures the Heart of the Community."

Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church, Creswell, NC, recently completed a 50 - Day Spiritual Adventure entitled "The Church You've Always Longed for: What You Can Do To Make It Happen!" The special spiritual growth effect began on Easter Sunday as the church celebrated the theme "The Church You've Always Longed for: Works at Being a Caring Family!" During the following seven weeks individuals in the congregation completed self-study journals designed to help them personally reflect on their own spiritual strengths and weaknesses.

Each week the congregation joined together to celebrate a specific theme of importance to any local congregation. Worship services included dramas, special readings, and presentations. According to Pastor Keith Pelletier, "We had almost every member of our congregation take some leadership role in our worship over the eight-week period. It was a great blessing to see persons ministering to the congregation in ways they never had before."

A major emphasis of the Adventure was to help the congregation see itself as an important part of the local community. Following one Sunday evening service, members of the congregation joined together to write 141 "Thank You" letters to people in the local community. Fire and rescue persons, teachers, business people, government officials and others all received a hand-written letter from someone in the church. A local fireman responded this way, "It's the first time anyone has ever made a special effort to say 'Thank You.'"



Members of the Mount Tabor Church family write "Thank You" letters to people in their community.

In celebrating the theme of "Welcoming all People," Mount Tabor invited six diverse area churches to participate in a joint worship and praise service. A "standing room only" congregation of different races and worship backgrounds spent over two hours in worship through song, praise, and testimony. A special offering was taken and the seven churches agreed to partnership in bringing together an evangelistic crusade for the Creswell area. One worshipper noted "This is what Christianity is supposed to look like!"

The Adventure officially ended on Pentecost Sunday with a church dinner and an afternoon celebration. The members of the church pray that the spirit of the Adventure will live on in their hearts as they work for the glory and cause of Jesus Christ in the Creswell community.

News from Christian Chapel

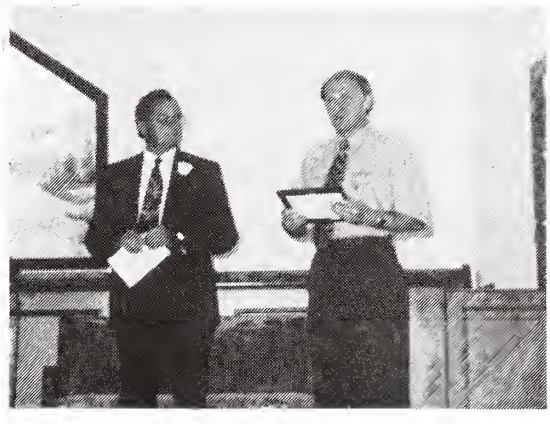
Christian Chapel Youth Keeping Busy!

The AFC and YFA of Christian Chapel Free Will Baptist Church recently took a trip to Myrtle Beach, SC. They left on a Thursday and came back on Saturday. They attended a show at the Alabama Theater and really had a great time. Friday was spent shopping and walking on the beach and playing Putt-Putt that night.



Pastor Honored

The Rev. Steve Hargrove was very surprised on Father's Day to receive a beautiful plaque along with a card and a monetary gift. The church said they appreciated all of his hard work.



Wallie Hargrove Reaches the Big "50"

On July 6, Christian Chapel Church gave Wallie, the pastor's wife, a surprise birthday party. All kinds of goodies were served and enjoyed by all. Wallie says "thanks" for all the beautiful cards and gifts.

FYI

for your information

People & Events

The Stranger

He walked in through the back door and sat in the very last pew.
His presence went unnoticed with the exception of a few.

I noticed him walk in, but he never said a word.
There were lots of people talking, but his voice I never heard.

His jeans were torn and faded, their color worn away.
I felt sorry for this man, that life had treated him this way.

I thought he'd probably ask for money, those people are all the same.
If he only knew who Jesus was his life would surely change.

And when the service ended and conversations began;
You could see them point their fingers as they whispered about the man.

He saw them point their fingers, he looked so out of place.
And as he stood there watching, a tear ran down his face.

I don't know how he heard us, it wasn't meant for him to hear;
But when he left the church, his eyes were filled with tears.

And just as no one noticed, this man entering the church;
It seemed that no one noticed, that this man was really hurt.

I ran outside to catch him, I said, "stranger, please hold on."
He said, "Yes, I am a stranger to you, my son."

I said, "I am sorry for our behaviour," and went to shake his hand;
When I noticed a scar that was on it, he said. "Now do you know who I am?"

I asked him, "Who are you?" He answered, "You already know;
These scars were made for you almost two thousand years ago."

I fell to his feet in shame, I couldn't believe what I had done.
The one that we made fun of was the Father's precious Son.

"Everyone you treat like that it might as well be me;
Know they are my children, and I am in them, you see!"

In you I am disappointed, and for the others, it's the same;
If you only knew who Jesus is, your life would surely change!

Patrick Small
Member of Sidney Free Will Baptist Church

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Eastern Conference Layman's League will meet at Camp Vandemere on Monday evening August 18. At 7:00 PM, there will be a meal followed by a time for fellowship. At 7:45 PM, the meeting begins. We encourage all laymen and pastors to attend as well as representatives from our denominational ministries.

ANNUAL LABOR DAY SALE AND BAZAAR

Saturday, August 30
and Monday, September 1

Begins at 8:00 AM and
ends when the last hot dog is sold.

Intersection of
Hwy 39 and Hwy 231 (Emit Plaza),
(Five miles south of Five-County Stadium)

We will have our famous "Hotdogs" for sale. $1.00 buys a hotdog and a drink. There will also be lots of homemade pies, cakes, and goodies. An assortment of homemade crafts and canned goods will also be available. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship.

Sponsored by:
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
Woman's Auxiliary, Middlesex, NC

In Memoriam —

Lucy Charlotte Barrow Gray

by Helen T. Beamon

Charlotte Barrow was born on March 22, 1895, the second child born to John Owen and Ida Harrison Barrow. They lived with Ida's Aunt Mary Elizabeth Mitchell (known as Aunt "Moll") in a very modest house. Aunt Moll helped to care for and train their children, especially when Ida had to help tend to crops. Charlotte and her siblings learned to love and respect Aunt Moll and to care for the young children in the family. After Aunt Moll was unable to care for them, Charlotte became their caretaker. In turn the younger children had a deep love and respect for Charlotte.

Charlotte attended Arba School, Snow Hill School, Ayden Free Will Baptist Seminary, and Littleton College. She taught elementary children first in Grimmers Branch School, Pitt County; then at Arba and Barrow Schools in Greene County. Barrow School was located on her grandfather Jesse Heath Barrow's farm. She loved teaching and working with children and always displayed a kind, happy, and caring personality. At school she helped her students to learn Biblical truths and had prayer to start the day.

She made a confession of faith at an early age. She was baptized by Elder Alfred E. Rouse in a nearby mill pond and became an active member of Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church. Later Elder Rouse performed her marriage ceremony.



Lucy Charlotte Barrow Gray

Charlotte was loved by her family and students and was to some extent considered a second mom.

December 24, 1922, Charlotte married Levi J. Gray. They lived on the Gray Family farm in Lenoir County and came to worship service at Hull Road when they could. They were the parents of four sons and a daughter. Charlotte again was able to show her devoted love and care for her own family. At present her three living children are Charlotte Ruth Suitt and Hyman M. Gray, both of Kinston, and Ralph B. Gray of Florida.

For many years Charlotte was an avid reader, especially the Bible and Bible-related books. She loved the Word of God and memorized Scripture by Chapters. When asked about her philosophy for living a long life she replied, "It's the Lord's goodness." She believed the Lord was pleased that she spend time memorizing Scripture.

She was a member of the Bible Memory Association for more than ten years and attended several of the Association's Summer camps at Rocky Bottom, SC,. Toccoa GA, Amsterdam, NY.

One of the highlights of the year for her was attending Woman's Conference at Cragmont near Black Mountain, North Carolina. She went for a week most every summer, from 1960–1990.

Charlotte was an active member of Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Lenoir County and was a faithful attender.

"I enjoy listening to Christian radio and have no desire for television," she said. She also derived much pleasure from growing flowers, gardening, doing house work, crocheting, and having family members and friends visit her.

She became a widow in 1951. There are eleven grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. She was blessed with good health all her life and lived to be one hundred one years of age. Charlotte went to her heavenly reward on February 2, 1997.

Obituary

Danny Lee Jones of Clayton died June 28, 1997, at age 44 following a long illness. He was a member of Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church and was buried in the church cemetery. He is survived by his wife, his parents, one brother, four children, and one grandchild.

John Harris, stepson of Danny and pastor of Gum Swamp Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville, NC, gave a touching eulogy honoring his stepfather. He gave Danny credit for starting him in church at Powhatan as a youth where he received his calling and made the decision to attend Mt. Olive College and enter the ministry.

The Rev. Don Venable, who was Danny's neighbor for years, said he had learned to love him like a son.

Danny is now at rest but continue to remember his family during their time of loss.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Don't Forget

Saturday, August 16
Original Free Will Baptist — 2nd Annual Family Day at Kings Dominion
For Ticket Information Contact:
Your Pastor or Youth Leader
Call The Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters at 919–746–4963
811 N. Lee Street, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513–0039

First Annual Convention Golf Fellowship

A day of fun and fellowship is planned for the first 72 players (18 teams) to register for the First Annual Convention Golf Fellowship to be held on Tuesday, September 16, 1997, at the Southern Wayne Country Club located near Mount Olive. By beginning the tournament at 12 noon, all players will have time to complete their round of golf and be ready for the Night of Evangelism at 7:30 PM. The tournament is open to Original Free Will Baptist Ministers, Original Free Will Baptist church members, and employees of Original Free Will Baptist Ministries. The purpose of the tournament is to promote fellowship among Original Free Will Baptists. The features of the tournament are as follows:

Format:	Four-man team superball
Tee Time:	12 noon
Trophies:	Top three teams
Prizes:	Closest to pin
	Longest drive
	Others by drawing from all participants
Entry Fee:	$30 per player (includes cart)

You may register as an individual or with one, two, or three other persons. If you sign up as a group of 4, your foursome is guaranteed for the tournament. If you sign up with less then four, we will complete your foursome for you, or if you sign up with less than four, you may have to be split up to make a team. The deadline for registering is September 8, 1997; however **please remember that the tournament is limited to the first 72 players.** No team is properly registered until the registration fees are received.

— —

Registration Form

Players Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Other team members: _____

_____

Please complete a form for each player and return to: Buddy Sasser, Box 545, Bridgeton, NC 28519; be sure to enclose your $30 registration fee. If you have questions please contact Buddy Sasser at (919) 638–9012 or Scott Sowers at (919) 746–4963.

Directory Changes:

Please note the following corrections and changes to the 1997 Yearbook:

- The Rev. Norman Ard, 790 Jonestown Rd., Pink Hill, NC 28572
- The Rev. Norwood B. Futrell, 1999 Staton Mill Rd., Stokes, NC 27884
- The Rev. Dan Jordan, Box 1820, Clinton, NC 28329
- The Rev. John Owens, 3788 Tower Hill Rd., Kinston, NC 28501

Edwards Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Pastor: The Rev. Francis Garner, 120 Cricket Lane, Newport, NC 28570; phone: (919) 223–5887
Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent: Elzie Tosto, 1573 South River Rd., Beaufort, NC 28516; phone: (919)728–3950
Treasurer: Lem Bruce Hardy, 121 Hardy Lane, Beaufort, NC 28516; phone: (919) 728–2043
Woman's Auxiliary President: Pattie Lupton, 1443 South River Rd., Beaufort, NC 28516; phone: (919) 728–5016

Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Church Phone: (919) 244–3525

Roanoke Valley Free Will Baptist Church
Church Phone: (919) 537–4994

Rock of Zion Free Will Baptist Church
Church Address: NC 306 Hwy. S., Grantsboro, NC 28529; phone: (919) 745–3993
Pastor: The Rev. Richard Glosson, 401 NC 306 Hwy. S., Grantsboro, NC 28529; phone: (919) 745–5979
Clerk: Jean Dixon, 394 Old Bay River Rd., Grantsboro, NC 28529; phone: (919) 745–4428
Treasurer: Caroline Willis, 535 Prescott Rd., New Bern, NC 28560; phone: (919) 745–7227
Sunday School Superintendent: Gary Brinson, 50 Keel Rd., Grantsboro, NC 28529; phone: (919) 745–4455
Chairman of the Deacons: Gregory Harris, 1671 NC 306 Hwy. N., New Bern, NC 28560; phone (919) 745–5598
Woman's Auxiliary President: Lynette Spencer, PO Box 363, Grantsboro, NC 28529; phone: (919) 745–3719
Youth Director: Pamela Ireland, 921 Prescott Rd., New Bern, NC 28560; phone: (919) 745–5803

St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church (Western)
Pastor: Dr. Jerry Stephenson, 11605 Raper Rd., Middlesex, NC 27557; phone: (919) 284–1726

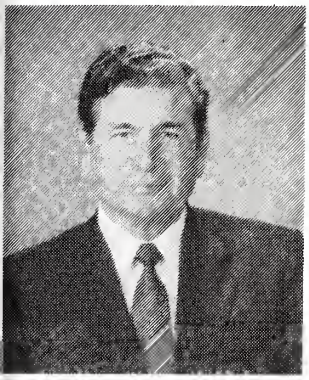
Westside Free Will Baptist Church
Church Address: PO Box 1141, Kinston, NC 28503; phone: (919) 522–4505

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

Renewal Through Rest

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength," (Isaiah 30:15).



Dr. W. Burkette Raper

The Tyranny of Time

Whether employed, pursuing our careers or in retirement, we Americans appear to be prisoners of time. We are constantly on the move, if not on the stretch, to do more and more things and to go to more and more places. Unless we take deliberate steps to prevent it, our lives will be consumed by schedules and activities whether these have meaning and value or not.

Some years ago I read about some Americans who were on a hunting expedition in eastern Africa. They had retained some natives as their guides and were on the trail of the big game when the natives suddenly stopped and in spite of the pleading and urging of the hunters, they insisted on a pause. "We have rushed for too long," they declared, "and now our bodies must wait for our spirits to catch up."

In the order of creation, God established the Sabbath for rest, and He so created us that the need for rest is an integral part of our being. As much as He had to do and as short as the time in which He had to do it, Jesus refused to let Himself get entrapped by the maddening crowds of His day. "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest," He said to His disciples, (Mark 6:31 NIV).

Time Out

At strategic periods in an athletic contest, a good coach knows when to call for a "time out" in order to assess the status of the game and to plan for the next play. With the advancing of the years, we senior citizens can also gain valuable insight into when to call "time out."

When things will not come together; when our family and friends appear irritable and critical; when it seems that people give priority to what benefits them rather than sharing a larger vision; when if anything can go wrong, it does; when our fatigue turns into weariness; and when we become more negative than positive in our attitudes and in our relationships; it is time to call "time out."

During my forty years as president of Mount Olive College, I tried never to make a major decision when I was tired, worried, or under pressure. For many years, through the kindness of special friends, my wife and I have had the privilege of vacations and retreats on the coast and in the mountains of North Carolina. Putting aside the restraints of my inner privacy, I dare share with you some reflections on these periods of rest and renewal.

At Lake Lure — Chimney Rock

Here I behold the majesty of God's creation: range after range of lofty mountains — the work of a mind and hand beyond my ken; and the water which descends from these hills being held captive by the engineering skills of mortal man.

Here in this paradise of union between the Creator and the Creature, I rest my body for healing and open my mind to the lessons of earth and the meaning of eternity. With so much of my life having been driven by the all-consuming demands of my work and the never-ending cycle of conflicting expectations, my body neared the limits of endurance until God called, "Come apart and rest a while."

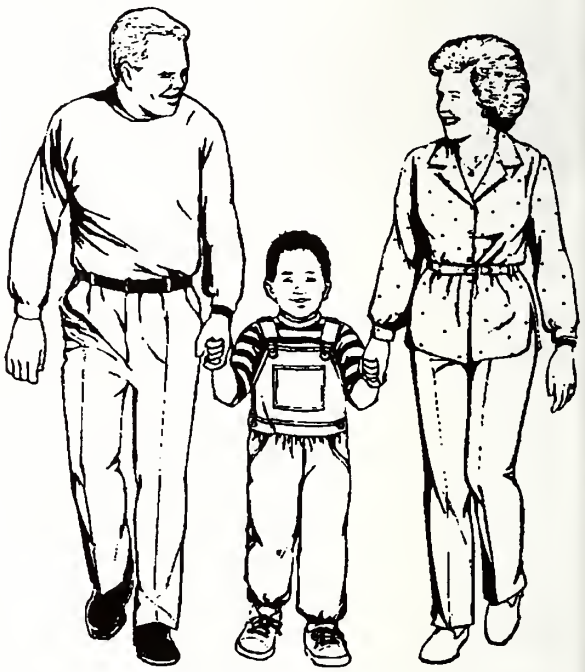
In the beauty of this place and in the serenity of a time not structured by a schedule, I wait in the presence of Him who was here before these mountains were brought forth and who will be here when they are no more. Here I experience freedom from the tyranny of time. Here I can think, feel and wonder, and be renewed in mind, body and spirit by the recreative power of the Eternal One.

1997 (Vol. 2, No. 10)
W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

I Am The Child

I am the child.
All the world waits for my coming;
All the world watches with interest to see what I shall become.
Civilization hangs in the balance. For what I am, the world of tomorrow will be.

I am the child.
I have come into your world.
About which I know nothing.
Why I came I know not;
How I came I know not.
I am curious; I am interested.



I am the child.
You hold in your hand my destiny.
You determine, largely, whether I shall succeed or fail.
Give me, I pray you, those things that make for happiness.
Train me, I beg you, that I may be a blessing to the world.

—Mamie Gene Cole.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6.

"...and a little child shall lead them" Isaiah 11:6.

The Golden Years: Renewal Through Rest Cont....

Sunrise Over the Ocean

One of the most majestic scenes in all of nature is the rising of the sun over the ocean.

Throughout the night, there is the symphony of the unseen waves as they break upon the beaches, but precisely on time, the first rays of light appear: first gray, then pink followed by red. The black clouds turn silver; the sky turns blue; and as the light advances, an orange radiance emerges from out of the deep and takes command of the eastern horizon. Higher and higher the sun ascends with a force that no human power can restrain. In a moment of time and sheer brightness of the light becomes two brilliant for our eyes to behold.

A new day is born, and we are assured that whatever problems we have, the work of God will go forth. In this great drama of the universe we are assured that this is our Father's world, and in this assurance we experience healing and peace. "The whole earth is at rest, and [all] is quiet," (Isaiah 14:7).



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Og Mandino. *The Greatest Salesman in the World Part II:* The End of the Story. New York: Bantam Books, 1988.

Introduction

The successful salesman Hafid decides he wants to become a great speaker. Could the principles of the 10 scrolls lead him to prominence as a public speaker? Promoter Galenus offers to set up programs and palaces for Hafid to speak. What tools are necessary for Hafid to succeed?

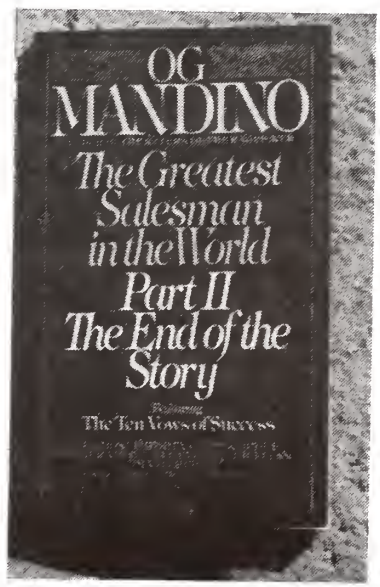
The Advice of Sergius

Hafid's friend Sergius congratulates Hafid for coming out of seclusion in order to be active in the world once again. Sergius believes that Hafid needs to remind his audience of his early days as a camel boy, his early struggles as a salesman. Sergius wisely notes what might be effective in speaking. How can Hafid tell others how to make their dreams come true?

Sergius suggests, "By using the strongest of words to paint scenes in their minds they will never forget. Let them smell the camel dung you shoveled, let them see your tears of heartbreak, let them agonize over the failures you suffered as you were struggling to build a better life" (45).

Hafid's Ten Vows of Success

After the success of his public speaking, Hafid turns from oratory to writing, so that his words might reach more people. What he is urged to write are ten vows of success: (1) "Never again will I pity or belittle myself" (79). (2) "Never again will I greet the dawn without a nap" (85). (3) "Always will I bathe my days in the golden glow of enthusiasm (91). (4) "Never again will I be disagreeable to a living soul" (97). (5) "Always will I seek the seed of triumph in every adversity" (103). (6) "Never again will I perform any task at less than my best" (107). (7) "Always will I throw my whole self into the task at hand" (113). (8) "Never again will I wait and hope for opportunity to embrace me" (117). (9) "Always will I examine, each night, my deeds of the fading day" (123). (10) "Always will I maintain contact, through prayer, with my creator" (128).



Conclusion

Though Hafid dies at the end of the story, he has with him a red robe. Og Mandino presents to us a curious blend of the miraculous with the mundane. Mandino's obsession with success had led him to become an international speaker and writer. His principles are self-help mandates but the style of his story is metaphorical.

***The Greatest Salesman in the World Part II* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore:**
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson

THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP IN THE SMALL CHURCH

by Frank Grubbs

Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership*. The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

In considering the topic, *Crisis of Leadership*, from an Original Free Will Baptist perspective, it is my considered opinion that we, as a denomination, need to accept two facts that are basic to making this a crucial turning point in the process of our churches. First, we are a small denomination made up predominantly of small congregations scattered mainly throughout Eastern North Carolina. Second, we are small because we have chosen to be small. Our size is directly related to our personal choices, beliefs, and values.

The term *small* is something more than a numerical definition. It has to do with the way we relate to one another. One of our strongest assets is our capacity to care for one another as members of the family of God in our respective communities. The small congregation can do this well because we know one another so intimately. It is our caring that holds us together as a church and makes us effective in our *smallness*. When the caring relationship breaks down, the church loses effectiveness and becomes unhealthy. Furthermore, if reconciliation does not come about soon, the church will go into a tailspin that eventually will lead to death. The church that quarrels among itself cannot serve the cause of Christ in the community. The church that is always concerned about finances will do little to help the kingdom of God to grow on earth. The church that is constantly changing personnel will never have the leadership in place long enough to develop programs that will keep the church healthy. There is a need among Original Free Will Baptists to recognize our uniqueness and emphasize our strong points.

The strongest of these points is found in human relationships, for this is the stuff that holds our congregations together. However, this is also the stuff that breaks our congregations apart. If we cannot get along, we split and divide to form another small congregation on the other side of town or down the road. Why not accept the fact that we are going to remain small, grow to our saturation point, and then give birth to another small congregation? Let this be a part of the long range goals of the church. Very few of our churches are willing to risk growth beyond a certain point, because beyond that point we begin to lose our identity. In the majority of Original Free Will Baptist congregations, our identity is found in human relationships — our capacity to love and care for one another.

The leadership within the denomination and the local church should discover ways to promote healthy expressions of love and care, thus we will be identified as was the Early Church: "See how those Christians love one another." Denominational leaders should be constantly seeking understanding in the makeup of the healthy small church, and developing programs through our ministries to lend a helping hand to the local congregations. The leadership within the local congregation should be aware of their unique ways of showing Christian care and love, and promote these unique expressions throughout the congregation.

Our history has shown that we are satisfied to remain small. Most of our churches have experienced growth to the saturation point at some time in their history. Rather than make the changes necessary to expand beyond that saturation point, the vast majority of our churches have fallen into decline. We chose to remain small to retain our identity and to hang on to our uniqueness. Let us realize that this was and still is our choice. Let us also ask for God's grace in understanding that in our *smallness* lies our strength. The fact that in the majority of our churches everyone knows, or knows about, everyone else, puts us in the unique position of showing genuine Christian care for one another. This care does have limits. We can reach beyond ourselves only so far before we begin to lose our capacity to show genuine Christian care.

How can we grow and remain small? We need to develop a church birth process. In recognizing our limits and saturation point, we know that at some point in time the need will arise to form another caring group. Another worship service can be designed within the same church facility until the new group can

go out, with the aid of the mother church, and build facilities of their own. The mother church should continue to nurture the new congregation until they can make it on their own. Ultimately the new congretation will give birth to their own church because of the caring and nurturing they received.

Because of our ability to love one another, this is not an impossible approach to church growth. We have chosen to remain small so that we can adequately care for one another. In understanding our limits and the reasons for placing these limits on ourselves, we can grow beyond ourselves as we give birth to new caring congregations.

For Further Reading

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"You published the articles about the cancer survivor and how she had helped heal our church. You would not believe all the positive comments that I have received about the issue! Elders whom I have always known and respected as the backbone of the church were complimenting the story and were thrilled to see Powhatan mentioned and active. I wrote it because I love Vicky and our church and I wanted to share that somehow. Now that I see the effect on the church members, I would like to submit more news items as I am able to try to maintain the enthusiasm.

"It's hard to write things a month ahead, but I will try to sum up the highlights of what is happening at Powhatan. Please use what you can...Thank you for your consideration."

—Rita Otto Jones, Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC

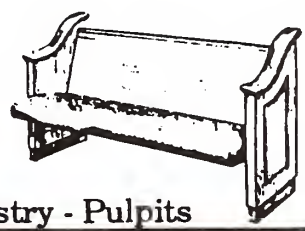
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—Janette Stubblefield, Murray, KY

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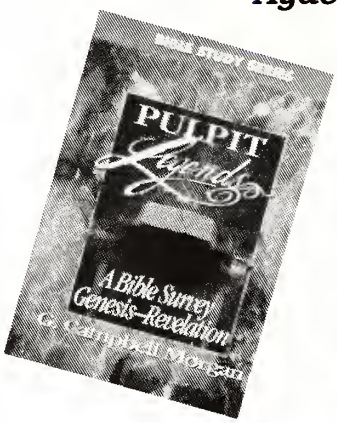
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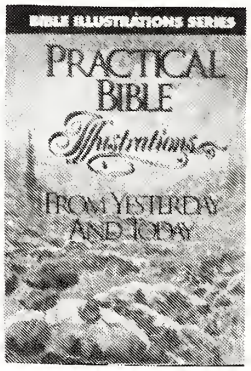
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September 1997

The Free Will Baptist



FEATURING:

Why Should We Know Our Denominational History?

True Repentance

Convention Program

Good, Old-Time Revival

It's Who You Know

Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

We Are

"FREE WILL BAPTISTS"

Thanks to the historically minded, Original Free Will Baptists now have a greater knowledge about our past — how we originated and also how we have developed as a denomination. In this day of declining loyalty to denominationalism, however, and in the opinion of many, a historical perspective is not important. It is true: we cannot relive the past; the so-called "good old days" are gone. Yet, we must realize that the past has made its contribution to the future. Each generation builds on the achievements of others. The invention of the wheel was only the beginning of what was to ultimately lead to the Industrial Revolution. The generations that followed developed it in thousands of ways. The truth is that we cannot ignore the past; it is a part of us, whether it is the invention of something, or the development of an idea.

History reveals that our doctrinal views existed long before the name "Free Will Baptist" was given. The "tie that bound" our forerunners together was faith and the practice of that faith. Likewise, it is our doctrines and the practice of them that binds us together today. We all agree that our doctrines are Biblically sound. Throughout the years they have remained basically the same, beginning with the Confession of 1660 in which a group known as Ana-Baptists declared their *Brief Confession* or *Declaration of Faith.*

A comparison between the 1660 Confession and the earliest statement subscribed to by Free Will Baptists is very similar. While revisions in the *Articles of Faith* have been made, and certain interpretations have changed, it has remained basically the same. Thus, it is our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government* that make us "true" Free Will Baptists. Any variance from these beliefs and practices weakens the impact of the Word and our identity is marred.

Our *Articles of Faith* are simply statements of what we believe. They are not theological discourses or expositions. They do not cover what we do not believe, and there is no need to do so. Anyone who desires to learn more about theological matters can find numerous resource materials for such a research project. We state what we believe about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Creation, the Church, the Scriptures, etc. It is a matter of logic that in uniting with an Original Free Will Baptist Church, one is not only affirming his/her faith in Christ, but also an acceptance of our doctrinal statement. Regrettably, the history of our denomination has at times been torn by those who were among us but not of us.

Quite often we are classified as another "Baptist group." If such were true, then we would be a part of the Calvinistic view concerning eternal security, "that once saved, always saved." The Free Will Baptist doctrine on this matter is set forth in Article 10, entitled, "Perseverance of the Saints," as follows:

"We believe that those who abide in Christ have the assurance of salvation. The Christian, however, retains his freedom of choice. Therefore, he should watch and pray since it is possible for him to turn away from God and be eternally lost, which is called making shipwreck of faith."

As with all the *Articles of Faith*, the Scriptural basis for Article 10 is then set forth. One who becomes a member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church accepts this doctrinal statement, as well as all others. Acceptance does not imply a full understanding of the deep theological truths contained in each of them, but each believer desires to learn and thus to "...grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18). Our doctrinal statement on "The Perseverance of the Saints" is plainly stated; yet, it has been misunderstood and misrepresented by many.

Other denominations, large and small, share our Arminian doctrine. There are basic similarities in all of our doctrines; yet, there are differences. Free Will Baptists practice the ordinance of "Washing of the Saints' Feet" as a part of The Lord's Supper, which is open to all believers as expressed in Article 16, "...no man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of His disciples."

We believe, as stated in Article 3, that it is the Holy Spirit "...who regenerates and sanctifies us..." and in Him "...we find our strength and help." He indwells the believer, giving comfort, guidance, and understanding. Any practice that takes His workings beyond these basic premises is not in keeping with our doctrinal position and can only lead to confusion and division, as has happened in our history.

We do have distinctive customs, traditions, practices, and beliefs; therefore, we must quickly and purposefully defend them when necessary.

IT DOES HAPPEN!

All mechanical objects are subject to break-downs. That's what happened to our two-color printing press just before we were to begin printing the August issue of *The Free Will Baptist.* By the time repairs were made we were one week behind in its publication and mailing. Thank you for your understanding.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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Why Should We Know Our Denominational History?

by Dr. Michael Pelt

We live in an age of such rapid change that most people are caught up in the whirlwind of current happenings and are little inclined to spend much time examining the past. Nor are they likely to understand why they should.

Having spent a good portion of my life absorbed in the study of history in relation to the Bible, the universal church, and our own denomination, I am occasionally confronted with the question, "Why should we be concerned about what happened in the past?" We live in an age of such rapid change that most people are caught up in the whirlwind of current happenings and are little inclined to spend much time examining the past. Nor are they likely to understand why they should.

There is much we can learn from a study of the past, beyond gathering a mass of information about people and events before our time. First of all, history teaches us a respect for tradition and for the burdens and responsibilities that the past has thrust upon us. Without some knowledge of the past we would find it impossible to judge what is important today. Further, we would not know how to make sense of all that is happening around us. Not only would we have difficulty deciding what to do with our lives, we would also lack the stability required to accomplish anything worthwhile because we would have nothing upon which to build a future. The more we learn about the past the better we understand our own time and place. Then we begin to see how our lives can make some contribution to the present and future of humankind. Without this knowledge we may feel that every event is the result of chance and that there is no purpose in the universe and no real purpose in human life.

History also teaches us the inevitability of change in human affairs and reminds us of the delicate balance between the need for change and the need for stability in society. Without change there would be no opportunity for progress in the human enterprise, but a sudden, drastic change that seems to have no good purpose can lead to chaos. A study of the past enables us to see that changes will occur and can help us to give some direction to those changes.

A knowledge of history can also be an instrument of progress and renewal. It provides us with numerous examples of men and women whose faith, courage, and devotion enabled them to engage in acts of goodness, charity, and brotherhood in the midst of a world of suffering, disease, and strife. Such examples can inspire us to embrace worthy causes, to attempt noble achievements, and to believe that with God's help all things are possible. A knowledge of history likewise teaches us that human beings have endured profound adversities with an abiding faith in the possibilities of the future.

Most of us have studied American history at some time in our lives. What would happen to our country if its people decided that the nation's history was unimportant? It has been said that a nation that does not know its past does not know itself. Our country has been shaped by a long series of great and small events that distinguish America from all other nations of the world. Our democratic institutions, for example, are the envy of millions of people who have spent all or part of their lives under various forms of tyranny. Those democratic institutions would not long survive without knowledge of how they came into existence in this country and what great sacrifices they have required. It is our knowledge of these traditions, unique to America, and how they have served this nation for more than two centuries that makes us proud to be Americans.

If a knowledge of history has great value for everyone and if it is important to know our nation's past, it is also important for Original Free Will Baptists to know their denomination's history. Without such knowledge we will have little or no appreciation for our religious heritage. We will have no idea as to why we claim to have an English General Baptist heritage, or why our forefathers in the early nineteenth century decided to take the name Original

Free Will Baptists. We will not fully understand our traditions that distinguish us from certain other denominations, or why we embrace certain beliefs and practices and decline to embrace others. We will not understand, for example, how in our denomination the local church has a special relationship with the conference of which it is a member and why the minister is a member of a conference and that he has certain obligations to the conference as well as his local church. If we do not know our history, we will likely not understand the need for cooperation among our churches and among the conferences, which led to the formation of our Convention. Nor will we see how we came to have as many as ten denominational ministries that operate under the auspices of the Convention when a little more than one hundred years ago we had none. Furthermore, we will not know how these ministries have developed to the point where they are today and what services they have rendered on behalf of the entire denomination.

If we do not know our history, we will fail to recognize how vulnerable we have been to the influence of men and movements that would divide us in order to advance their own causes. Such ignorance will blind us to the fact that our denomination has been victimized in the past by unscrupulous persons who have little knowledge or appreciation of our heritage. Often these persons have joined our churches or entered the ranks of the ministry in our denomination from different backgrounds and have used their talents and influence to subvert the local church or even the conference to their own particular beliefs. This is what happened to many of the churches in the Cape Fear Conference when the Holiness and Pentecostal movements made their impact upon certain individuals and churches in the early years of the twentieth century. A few churches in other conferences also felt the divisive effects of these movements in their midst during that same period. Because these movements are *not* a part of our denominational heritage, we still must be prepared to deal with those who desire to subvert our churches to their particular doctrines and practices.

In the 1950s, after we had become a part of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, an over-zealous pastor in North Carolina sought to impose his views upon us concerning the *absolute* autonomy of the local church, along with the idea that the conference has no authority over the minister, views which are advocated and widely accepted among Independent Baptists and some other groups. Because the National Association chose to support this pastor and to ignore what history tells us about the polity of Original Free Will Baptists, the results contributed to one of the most serious crises in our history and ended any formal relationship with the National Association. To be ignorant of such events and their causes in our history is to be vulnerable to such unfortunate outcomes. It has been truly said that if we do not learn from our history, then we are doomed to repeat it.

To be ignorant of such events and their causes in our history is to be vulnerable to such unfortunate outcomes. It has been truly said that if we do not learn from our history, then we are doomed to repeat it.

Of even greater importance is the fact that most church members can benefit from a better knowledge of our history in that it enhances their awareness of their spiritual heritage, it encourages denominational loyalty, and it promotes support for the causes sponsored by the denomination. It also contributes to the development of good stewardship among both ministers and members of the churches.

It is for these reasons that I devoted the necessary time to write and publish *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*. Prior to that I had the privilege of researching the subject and teaching the course on the Free Will Baptist Church at Mount Olive College over a period of twenty years. These efforts will be greatly rewarded if both pastors and laypersons seize the opportunity to become better informed about their denomination's history and if in each local church there is someone who will give this matter the priority that it deserves.

Note: Copies of Dr. Pelt's book are available from Free Will Baptist bookstores and from the author.

TRUE REPENTANCE

by Mike Scott, Pastor
Wintergreen Original Free Will Baptist Church

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

The story is told of a small boy who was brought up in a household where both of his parents used tobacco. One day he took some of his father's cigarettes, found somewhere to hide and began to smoke one. He was caught in the act by his father and received not only a strong warning but an old-fashioned "whipping" for his transgression. The whole time the belt was being applied the youngster cried over and over, "I'm sorry!!" The father was satisfied that the child had learned his lesson, but the next day he found the boy once again smoking. The father confronted him by reminding him of the previous day and the fact that the child said the he was sorry. The boy responded by saying, "I wasn't sorry that I was smoking. I was sorry that I got caught!" If this story weren't so true it would be funny. In the day and age in which we live, the concept of repentance is foreign to the majority of people.

Just exactly what is repentance? In this verse of Scripture Paul talks about "Godly sorrow." Repentance begins here. For a person to truly repent he must realize how truly horrible his sin is in the presence of a righteous and holy God, and he must truly be sorrowful for the fact that he has committed that sin. After David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba he prayed, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight..." (Psalm 51:4). All sin is ultimately against God. It is He and His Word that holds us to a righteous standard, and to deviate from that standard is to commit a transgression against Him.

For a person of truly repent he must realize how truly horrible his sin is in the presence of a righteous and holy God, and he must truly be sorrowful for the fact that he has committed that sin.

Along with being truly sorrowful for our sin, there must be an acceptance of God's forgiveness. John teaches us that if we are willing to "confess" our sins then God is "...faithful and just to forgive us our sins..." (1 John 1:9). The mercy of God is extended to the sinner and forgiveness is always possible to those who will receive it. Once again we are reminded of David and of his sin with Bathsheba. He earnestly sought God's forgiveness when he prayed, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). The desire of David's heart was to be forgiven and he sought that forgiveness with sincerity.

The third element of repentance is perhaps the most difficult to accomplish. It is a forsaking of the sin. We have not truly repented until we have "turned loose" of the sin and have allowed it to pass out of our lives altogether. The Bible teaches us that as a Christian we will not practice sin; we will not make it a habit. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin;..." John declares in his first Epistle (3:9). The believer has repented of sin and has therefore turned his back upon that sin, never to walk in it again. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, before God gives the promise of "forgiveness of sin," He makes the demand of "turning from wicked ways."

Repentance is one of the key themes found in the Bible. In Paul's sermon to the Athenians on Mars Hill he declares, "...God ...now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). What God is looking for is a humility that comes out of total submission to His purposes, and this type of humility is possible only when a person's stubborn will is broken and is replaced with a desire to know and to do God's will. The Psalmist declares, "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" (Psalm 34:18). Yet, God not only calls individuals to repentance, but He calls churches (Revelation 2:5, 16; 3:3, 19) and even entire nations (Ezekiel 14:6; 18:30) to repent and to turn back to Him.

Three aspects of true repentance need to be emphasized. First of all, repentance needs to be proclaimed. The sad fact is that today very little preaching from our pulpits deals with the subject of repentance. In our culture today there is no conscious awareness of sin, and therefore no need to avoid and to forsake it. When society gets to the point at which there are no moral absolutes (right and wrong), and we view any lifestyle as "acceptable" and any action as a matter of "personal choice" there is no such thing as sin and nothing to be repented of. Preaching today does very little to either convict or condemn, and the majority of our parishioners will not tolerate any message that makes them feel "uncomfortable," or that (God forbid) shows them to be sinners in need of a Saviour.

But the fact of the matter is that we do our churches and our people a great disservice by failing to proclaim true Biblical repentance. Isaiah warns, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;..." (Isaiah 5:20). The message from our pulpits must be one of the divine truths of God that calls His people to repentance. As a matter of fact, by preaching repentance we place ourselves in good company. Consider the following:

- The message of John the Baptist was repentance. "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:1–2).
- From the beginning of His ministry Jesus Christ proclaimed a message of repentance.

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

"Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes" (Matthew 11:21).

- The Early Church burst upon the scene on the Day of Pentecost with the warning to repent.

  "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:37–38).
- The ministry of the Apostle Paul was one that proclaimed the need for repentance.

  "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).

If the first century church was compelled to proclaim loud and long the message of repentance, how can we fail to exhort the same message and to cry out against the sins of our day?

Second, repentance needs to be *perceived*. It is the responsibility of the church to lead her people to a proper understanding of what real repentance truly is. Our people need to know that repentance is not what they perceive it to be, but what God says it to be. We have already examined the three characteristics of true repentance — realizing what sin is and being sorrowful (Godly sorrow) for that sin; accepting God's forgiveness for sin; forsaking the sin and living a Godly life in Christ Jesus. This is the perception of repentance that we must bring our people to know and to understand.

I'm afraid that today the church has reduced repentance down to a formula that neither challenges the individual nor makes any demands upon his life. By walking a church aisle, shaking a preacher's hand, going through the ritual of baptism and being voted into the membership, anybody can become a part of the church. It is easier to become a member of the average Free Will Baptist church than it is to join the local country club or one of a number of social or civic organizations. In our quest for "numbers" on the church roll we have sacrificed the standard of "...Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). People need to be aware of what God expects and demands of them in their daily walk with Him. The need of the hour is a true understanding of what repentance really consists of.

Last, repentance needs not only to be proclaimed and to be perceived, but it needs to be practiced. If we are saved people, we need to live as saved people (Hebrews 6:9) and to let our lifestyles "...be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:..." (Philippines 1:27). It is one thing to know and to understand what God wants from us, but it is quite another thing altogether to put this into practice. The Old Testament is one long story of a people who knew what God expected of them, but failed to live up to the standards which He had set. From Adam and Eve who were warned not to eat of the forbidden fruit, to Samson who was a Nazarite from his mother's womb, to David who was a man after God's own heart, to the entire nation who were to live under the commandments, one transgression was heaped upon another as the people failed to practice what God had preached.

Jesus said "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Repentance must be put into practice. There needs to be the realization that actions not only have consequences, but that we are held accountable for our actions. A day is coming when all shall stand before the righteous judge of the universe and in that day each will be called upon to give an account of how his life was spent upon the face of this earth. There is no escaping this fact. The day of judgment is coming, and for many it will be a sad day because of the unrepentant lives that they have lived. The Scriptures teach us that the greatest loss that a person can suffer is the loss of his soul. Many a person is facing a Christless eternity in the lake of fire because they refuse to put repentance into practice.

The church today has lost its power. Because our standards have been lowered and because Biblical repentance is no longer practiced, the church has become weak and anemic when compared with the church found in the Book of Acts. A comparison of the church today with the first century church reveals some shocking discoveries. The first church saw souls saved in record numbers. They came one at a time, as in the case of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26–38); they came in families, as was the case with Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44–48); and they came by the thousands which was true on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41).

The first century church was also a church that made a dynamic impact upon the society in which she was placed. In the second Chapter of Acts the church began with 120 persons (the number found in many of our Free Will Baptist churches). Within one generation it is said that this same church had "...turned the world upside down..." (Acts 17:6). These facts prove to be a sad commentary on the church today. In a number of instances the salvation of souls has become nothing more than a "sideline" in churches, and rather than attempting to make an impact upon our society, we are trying to conform and to "fit in." A people that preaches and practices repentance has power with God and is able to do a great work for Him. May God grant us the grace to see this truth.

In conclusion, we look back at our original text of Scripture: "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." It has to begin here. From the pulpit to the pew, from the deacon to the doorman, from the choir to the congregation all must come to a conscious awareness of what sin is, how terrible sin is to Almighty God, and thus become Godly sorrowful for committing sin. The need for this and any other hour is repentance. If the church is to become what Christ instituted her to become, and if the Christian is to do what Christ has saved him or her to do, then we must adopt the attitude of true Biblical repentance.

Eighty-fifth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997

7:30 Night of Evangelism, the Rev. Walt Tyndall, Speaker

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

8:00 Bible Study, the Rev. Wayne King

8:30 Registration of Ministers and Delegates

8:55 Convention Called to Order, the Rev. Buddy Sasser, Secretary
Congregational Singing
Scripture and Prayer, James Bogle
Welcome

9:10 President's Remarks, the Rev. Ray Wells, President
Appointment of Committees

9:20 Executive Committee Report, the Rev. Buddy Sasser, Secretary

9:25 Financial Report, the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, Treasurer

9:30 Executive Administrator's Report, the Rev. W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

9:40 Nominating Committe Report, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Chairman

9:50 Congregational Singing
Special Music

10:00 Children's Home Report, Dr. Bobby Taylor

10:10 Church Finance Association Report, the Rev. Don Fader

10:20 Cragmont Assembly Report, the Rev. John Williams

10:30 Foreign Missions Report, the Rev. Harold Jones

10:40 Break

10:50 Worship Service, the Rev. Rudy Owens

11:45 Miscellaneous Business
Floor Open for Nominations

12:00 Recess for Lunch

1:15 Registration Re-Opens

1:30 Congregational Singing
Scripture and Prayer, Brad Williamson

1:40 Recognition of Conference Moderators, New Churches, and New Ministers

1:50 Recognition of Fraternal Delegates, the Rev. W. Scott Sowers

2:00 Free Will Baptist Press Report, Mr. R. Clifford Gray

2:10 Home Missions and Evangelism Report, the Rev. David C. Hansley

2:20 Minister's Program Report, the Rev. Don Fader

2:40 Break

2:50 Mount Olive College Report, Dr. William Byrd

3:00 Retirment Homes Report, the Rev. Bruce Dudley

3:10 Sunday School Ministry Report, Mrs. Mary Dudley

3:20 Project Solution Task Force Committee Report, the Rev. C. H. Overman

3:30 Benedition

Several optional free workshops will be offered from 4–5 PM.

WEDNESDAY EVENING: MISSION RALLY, 7:30 PM

Reception in honor of 25th Anniversary of the current Board of Home Missions and Evangelism following the Rally.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1997

8:00 Bible Study, the Rev. Wayne King

8:30 Final Registration

8:55 Congregational Singing

9:05 Scripture and Prayer, Tony Glass

9:10 Chaplain's Commission Report

9:15 Ministerial Association Report, the Rev. Harold Swinson, President

9:20 Woman's Auxiliary Report, Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan, President

9:25 Carolina Bible Institute Report, Dr. Floyd Cherry

9:30 Camp Vandemere Report, Mr. Aldric Gaskins, Director

9:35 Historical Commission Report, Dr. Michael Pelt

9:40 League Convention Report, Miss Becky Jo Sumner

9:45 Obituary Committee Report, the Rev. Everette Harper

9:50 Report of the Credentials Committee, the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Chairman

9:55 Break

10:10 Worship Service, the Rev. Earl Glenn, Speaker

11:00 Resolutions Committee Report, the Rev. Robert May, Chairman

11:10 Miscellaneous Business
Elections to Fill Vacancies

12:00 Closing Ceremony
Scripture and Prayer, Neal Cox

If required, an afternoon session will be conducted for the transaction of business.

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

By Faith

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Hebrews 11:8). Through Abraham's faith God brought forth a great nation.

When I read this verse, Camp Vandemere comes to my mind. Camp Vandemere is a ministry of faith. This year Camp Vandemere has accomplished a lot due to the faith and love of people like you. The camp is going forth by faith this year; last year we were plagued by two hurricanes which did a lot of damage. As we began to get ready for this year's camping season, faith kept us going. I am reminded of Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find...." After we asked in faith, the Lord allowed Matthew 7:8 to become a reality to the camp: "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth;..." We received a lot of help and are very thankful for this. Now we are asking you to continue to practice this same faith and keep helping your camp.

Many of our directors came to camp with a great faith and the Lord has honored their faith. Many young people have been saved and others brought closer to the Lord. I especially think about the Rev. Ralph Sumner's week. He has not planned to direct a week, but at the last minute, due to a cancellation, Ralph and the people from Cabin Church stepped out on faith. They decided to take a week of camp; several were saved and their church is having a spiritual renewal. All this came because they had faith and added works with it.

The camp stepped out on faith this year and put our manager on staff for twelve months instead of just six months as had been the case in the past. Because of this, I believe Camp Vandemere has grown in several ways. Much needed work was done before the last minute, the camp was able to open to groups earlier, and the availability of a manager at the camp has helped in many ways. Our churches have enjoyed going to the camp and spending time with Aldric and Julia Gaskins.

As I again look at the part of Hebrews 11:8 which says, "...and he went out, not knowing...," I am reminded that only God knows the future and the blessings He has for us. It reminds me to keep my faith in God, never wavering. As Chairman of the Board, many times I have had to rely on my faith in the Lord to keep me going.

Again we are stepping out on faith. This year has been a very busy year for our manager. We see the need for someone to help or someone to assist him in his duties at the camp. It is hard to be manager, handyman, promotional director, cook, and anything else that comes up. Aldric has been working hard to finish another room in the family lodge, taking care of the bookings, as well as being there to greet our churches when they come for a weekend. When you begin to look at all his duties you wonder how he has done it all. Aldric and Julia have done all this through faith and love for the Lord. Now we are at a crossroads, we need some additional help. We are asking you to be much in prayer as we approach this. Many people have told me that the camp has looked the best this year it ever has. This we are very proud of, and we want to be able to continue this. We are asking you to keep us on your hearts through this fall and winter. There are many activities scheduled all the way into November. In order to do this, we will still need your financial help. You have been good to us this year and we are prayerfully asking you to please continue to help us.

Maybe the Lord is speaking to your heart and would like for you to offer your resources to the camp. There could be someone who could come and work during the spring and summer months. There are always things that need to be done at the camp, as well as new projects that we would like to do. As Aldric said, he felt as if he were on the mission field. If you are interested in this type of mission work, please contact us at Camp Vandemere.

We have exercised our faith once again and are going ahead with installing a new air-conditioner and heating unit in the kitchen-dining room. The heat in this building this time of the year is just terrible, especially in the cooking area. With this in mind, the board felt that this was a much needed project. At the same time we are installing a new central unit in the boy's dorm with vents running to the lobby. The boy's dorm at present has only a window unit and there is no air conditioning in the lobby. We are trying to make the camp as pleasant

Layman's League

Dates to Remember

September 4
Program Committee, Convention Headquarters, Ayden, 7:30 PM

September 8
Central Conference Layman's League, Greenville First Church, Supper – 7:00 PM, Business – 7:45 PM

October 2
Executive Board, Convention Headquarters, 7:30 PM

Camp Vandemere
By Faith, Cont...

as possible for all those who go to enjoy it.

I am thankful to you for all your fine help. There has been a time that such a project as this would have been delayed, actually it would have been forgotten, due to lack of support. Our Lord deserves the best we can give! We are working hard to bring your camp up to standards. Much of this has already been done. We have purchased a new freezer, a new pool, a tractor and mower, and many other projects have been accomplished. Please pray for us, come visit your camp, and invite Aldric and Julia to visit your church to tell you of the exciting things taking place at the camp. Then send us a love offering and add the camp to your yearly budget.

During the fall you might want to schedule a retreat during the week. Some schools start later than others while some will have different breaks during the fall and winter. Contact our manager to see what dates are open.

Once again we want to say "Thank you for your prayers, your visits, and your gifts to the camp."

Denominational Ministries

Home Missions & Evangelism

Come Help Us

CELEBRATE

25 years of Service to our Lord and to our Original Free Will Baptist People
during the

1997 MISSION RALLY

7:30 PM
Wednesday — September 17
College Hall
Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina



of

Expanding His Kingdom
through

Home Missions and Evangelism

You are cordially invited to a
Reception
in recognition of
Original Free Will Baptist
Home Missions and Evangelism's
twenty-five years of service
Wednesday, September 17
nineteen hundred and ninety-seven
immediately following the Mission Rally
Murphy Center • Mount Olive College

Home Missions & Evangelism



Youth Helps Provide For Family



Kang Thao of Merced, California attends the Lao Evangelical Church. Kang is now 13 and is already sewing, making the traditional outfits for dolls as well as making different animals. This she does to help her family and to provide for her school needs. Kang is a very dedicated young person to her family and her church.



Fu Moua Ordained



Recently, in a service conducted at the Lao Evangelical Church in Merced, California, Mr. Fu Moua was ordained into the Gospel Ministry. Dr. A. Graham Lane, chairman of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, attended the service and delivered the charge. The Rev. Fu Moua along with his wife Jo Ann and their two children, are being sent to Minnesota to begin a new Lao Evangelical Church in the St. Paul area where there is a large H'mong population. Please be much in prayer for the Moua family as they follow this call through the "Great Commission." Home Missions and Evangelism has pledged to assist Brother Moua and the Lao Evangelical Church, in this endeavor. Should you, your church, or church organization desire to help in Expanding His Kingdom in St. Paul, Minnesota, call (919) 746–4963 or write to Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

Hansley Serves at BSA National Jamboree

The Reverand David C. Hansley, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism served on staff at the Visitor's Information Center as assistant coordinator, during the 1997 National BSA Jamboree. More than 37,000 attended this Jamboree with approximatly 120,000 attending the closing ceremonies.

While serving, Brother Hansley had the privilege of working with more than 52 volunteers from across the USA. One member he will never forget working with was Lt. General Jack Wright Jr. of Riverside, California.



Character counts: What do the words mean?

Article reprinted from "Jamboree TODAY' Vol. XIV, Issue No. 5, written by Jonathan Jackson.

"Character Counts...Be Prepared for the 21st century" is the theme of the 1997 National Scout Jamboree.

Scouts are familiar with it by now; they wear it on their patches and hear it everywhere they go.

But what do these words mean?

Jamboree TODAY went in search of character and why it counts. Judges of character ranged from the vice chairman of chaplaincy services to a Scout leader from Ghana.

Lawrence Smith, vice chairman of chaplaincy services and an active Scouter, had this to say about character:

"If what you say is not what you believe, then there are obviously conflicts in your set of values.

"Scouting tries to strengthen young men and women at an early age, though we are observed our whole lives for our actions and our reactions.

"Those who watch you are influenced, even if they only encounter you but once. So, even on a onetime basis, character counts."

BSA Group Chairman of Marketing and Relationships Mike Harris oversees relationships services, such as the chaplaincy and the special guest reception as well as all jamboree media services.

"The Boy Scouts of America helps to develop character in the young people of our country," Harris said. "Young people represent perhaps 20 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future.

"We hope to guide the choice made by our Scouts," Harris said. "In no other organization are young people required to make decisions on what is fair and right at such an early age."

Harris spoke of the new millennium where "character will be what keeps the world together." He related a scene in the Lewis Carroll tale "Alice in Wonderland" where Alice reaches a crossroads, and asks the Cheshire cat which way she should go.

The cat asked her where she wanted to get to.

Her reply: "I don't really know."

Asks the cat, "Then what difference does it make which way you go?"

Through the development of character, Scouting is revealing to young men and women the way to go — the way to be and to act.

Edwin Puplambe and Peter Okyere, two adult leaders in the contingency from Ghana, talked about what they do to instill character in their Scouts.

"In Ghana, we teach Scouts to keep themselves away from the drugs and to keep a healthy environment.

"We also guide them to be good citizens and leaders."

On Wednesday, President Bill Clinton delivered a strong message to the thousands of Scouts and Scouters gathered at the arena:

"The next time you recite the Scout Oath, remember that this nation is counting on you.

"We need you to remain focused on the strong values you learned in Scouting. We need you to remember always that character counts. We need you to keep building communities and bringing people together.

"We need you to be prepared to lead this nation in the 21st century."

The BSA commissioned a recent study on values from Louis Harris & Associates, and the results indicated that values among many men and boys today are very unstable.

The national study samples were made up of randomly selected men and boys from age 7 and up.

Statistics revealed that in the previous year over half the boys from elementary through high school had cheated on school work, one quarter had shoplifted and 17 percent had used illegal drugs.

The study also found that adult men with five years' experience or more in Scouting were more likely than their non-Scout

Cont. on next page...

General: 'Scouting is the best thing'

By Brian Donehue, 17, Eagle Scout of Charleston, SC, Hometown News correspondent reporting for Post and Courier

Eagle Scout, West Point Military Academy graduate, former commander of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, prisoner of war in the Philippines and the list goes on.

But to look at retired Army Lt. Gen. Jack Wright, most would think him to be the average Scouter participating at the Jamboree.

Wright, a tall man in his 80s with a warm smile and a permanent expression of contentment on his face, has seen and done more than the average soldier in the average call to duty.

He graduated from West Point in 1940 and began an astonishing career in the U.S. Army. During World War II he was stationed in the Philippines.

During his service, he was stationed on the small island of Corregidor and was captured by the Japanese. Wright then spent three and a half years in prison camps until his liberation by the 7th Infantry Division.

Throughout his captivity Wright still managed to hang on to the ring that was given to him and the other West Point graduates upon their graduation.

"I had lost so much weight there that my ring began to fall off my finger. I sent the ring out through the Philippine underground and a short time later it returned downsized perfectly," Wright said with a grin on his face.

Wright went back to the Pacific to fight in the Korean War with the same 7th Infantry Division that liberated him during World War II.

The general has had so many experiences and served in so many areas in the U.S. Military, but still has found time to give back to Scouting.

"Scouting is the best experience to prepare (young men) for service" Wright said.

While in Korea, Wright was Scoutmaster of a troop of American boys stationed in Korea.

He has worked with countless other Scout troops and Explorer posts since then.

During the Vietnam War he served as adviser to the Vietnamese Boy Scout Association. He retired from the Army a distinguished general and then began a second career as a professional Scouter.

He served as director of Exploring and was the director of the National Jamboree at Moraine State Park, Pa., in 1977.

General Wright is a veteran. He served his country throughout a majority of his life, either in the military or in Scouting. His is a role model for Scouts all over the world and his service continues today.

He is another face in the crowd, but behind his friendly face and warm smile is a true hero.

Character Counts...Cont...

counterparts to graduate from high school and college. They had also achieved higher income levels.

The findings of the study confirmed the relevance of the BSA's focus on character development in youth.

The BSA chose "Character Counts" for the 1997 Jamboree as its primary program topic, and the specific words were then selected by the jamboree committee as the theme in 1997.

In a speech at an Eagle Court of Honor held Wednesday, Sgt. Maj. Dan Coberly, a Distinguished Eagle Scout, provided his definition of character:

"Character isn't just who you are or what you are or where you are in life or even great things you've done lately. Character is what you have done all the time, every time. It is the sum of what you have overcome."

So, Scouts and Scouters, in all that you do or say, character is the impression left upon people. It is the mental footprint left behind every time a Scout meets someone and behaves around them.

Scouts are on display at all times. They must live the ideals set before them because the character of a Scout is defined by the Scout Oath and Law — his code of life.

Character is what you have done all the time, every time. It is the sum of what you have overcome.

Cape Fear Youth Visit Children's Home

Summer fun was on the agenda for Saturday, August 2, 1997, when the Cape Fear District youth made their annual visit to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Many enjoyed water games, volleyball, good food, and fun after a service of devotions and a visit around the campus.

Over three hundred youth and youth leaders brought school supplies, paper products, personal care items with a $3400 contribution to the Home. We are pleased to see the youth of our churches work so hard to practice stewardship with others.

Thank you Cape Fear District youth. We hope you enjoyed your visit with us.



Youth with supplies for Children's Home

Street Repairs

The State Department of Transportation visited our campus in July to refurbish two of our side streets. Rodgers Lane and Heritage Lane were give a new layer of tar, rock and sand when DOT worked for several days rebuilding the streets' surfaces. The work will improve the aesthetics of our campus and the quality of our streets.



New surface for the road.

CHILD CARE SINCE 1920

Renovations in Rodgers Cottage

Rodgers Cottage on the Campus of the Children's Home has had a face lift this summer. Now the Rodgers Cottage family can enjoy the new, fresh look that was made with new flooring, new lights, and countertops. The ceilings and woodwork were freshened up and as always, fresh paint works wonders.

The old Refreshment building was also repainted this summer. It received some patchwork and given a fresh coat of paint. The building is now used for storage.

Plans are in the making to renovate State Cottage next year. The success of our "Change For Children" campaign has helped make this possible.



Successful Summer Programs

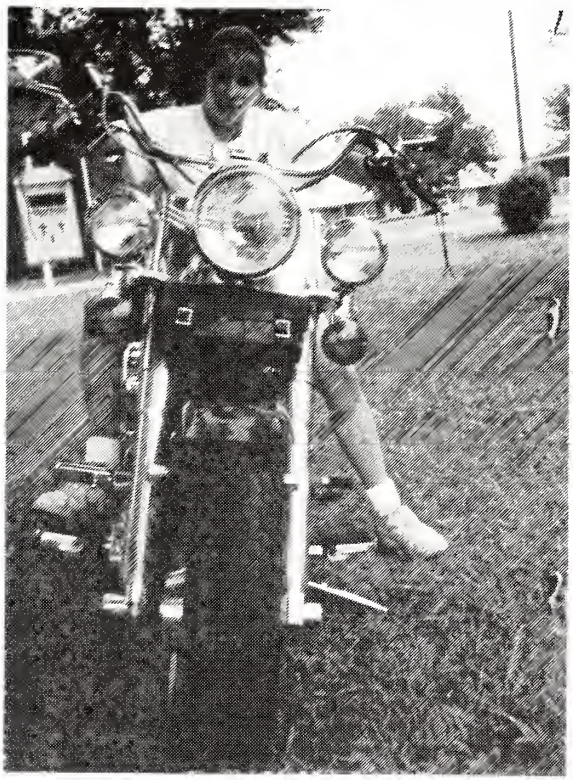
Daily recreational activities, swimming at the pool, summer jobs, short excursions, and a day at King's Dominion were all part of the summer program provided for the children on campus this summer. Staff members spent many hours involving the children on campus with varied activities that provided enjoyment and learning opportunities as well.

Cookouts, basketball games, art activities, and sometimes just hard work contributed to making the summer program a success. As the summer comes to a close, everyone can begin a new school year with special memories of summer fun.

Prayer

God, help us to be honest
so our children will learn honesty.
Help us to be kind
so our children will learn kindness.
Help us to be faithful
so our children will learn faith.
Help us to love
so our children will be loving.
Amen.







Summer with the Children at Children's Home



Mission Possible — Get'em There and Get'em Back

by Elaine Swinson

Proudly displayed on the wall of the fellowship hall in Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Pinetown, NC, is a mural entitled "Mission Possible — Get'em There and Get'em Back," depicting a happy couple in an airplane on a charted path from Pinetown to the Philippines and return. If you look real close and use your strong imagination, you can see that these two smiling faces are ours — Preacher Harold and Elaine Swinson. That was the beginning of a storybook adventure for us — a gift of love from our church, community and family.

Even Webster's great book of words is inadequate to express the deepest feelings and experiences which affect our lives. The short-term working mission trip we took to the Philippines certainly falls into that category. Our everyday life is full of blessings we would never put on a list, because we take them for granted. This journey we made forced us to be acutely aware of these gifts from God, because we entered a country which does not enjoy the wealth of life we possess.

Our sojourn began with a group of twelve individuals, who possessed one common thread — the love of Jesus in their hearts. Our group, consisting of five ministers with their wives, and two ministers by themselves, are from Eastern North Carolina. They are different sizes, ages and have different talents, but were in one accord as we departed from the Raleigh-Durham Airport on our way to Hawaii, which was the first and very important leg of our trip.

You may be asking why a trip to Hawaii was so important toward a mission trip to the Philippines. We can tell you that it was there that we became a family. We learned to love each other, help each other, and pray for each other. Each evening we had devotions in one of our rooms. It was not just a few words spoken or read from the Bible or a daily meditation book. It was a bonding of spirits to prepare us for the work we had before us in our mission field. This time of fellowship was just for us — food for our souls, which we often fail to receive because we are so busy feeding others in our flocks. We laughed together, stood on the beach and watched the beautiful sunset, shed tears at the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, climbed mountains, and walked a "hundred" miles, enjoying the beautiful things God made. Finally, we were ready to begin our real mission.

When we arrived in Manila, we got our first glimpse of how different our everyday existence is from this country so many thousands of miles away from us. Barbed wire, iron bars, and broken glass embedded on the top of block walls, adorned almost every residence or business. Security guards stood at the entrance of many businesses and locked gates protected homes. Cloths held over your face failed to absorb the pungent fumes of the hundreds of vehicles that crowded the streets, which were too small to accommodate the onslaught of traffic.

Our eyes burned from trying to see everything at one time. But some sights, we did not fail to see: the filthy canal running through the city filled with garbage; the great piles of trash lying in the streets; the shanty homes built of scraps which housed many, many families; or the faces of children, begging in the streets. Tears were



never far away as we saw the children, thinking of how well fed and protected our children have always been, while these were living in the streets — alone.

A bright moment in Manila seemed difficult to find, until we reached our destination. The Christian and Missionary Alliance provided us accommodations in a comfortable, hospitable atmosphere, where we had our first glimpse of Filipino children who had accepted Christ in their lives. We shared our rooms with missionaries of other denominations, finding that our mission endeavors were based on the same fundamentals — teaching others about God.

We were introduced to the shortage of water on this first day. This was one of the luxuries we so often take for

ATTENTION: RALLY TIME IS NEAR!

The Annual Convention Mission Rally will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 1997, at 7:30 PM in College Hall, Mount Olive College. I encourage you to attend.

I also encourage you to begin to pray about your gift to Foreign Missions at the Rally. This ministry is expanding and seeing growth on every field. The Rally offering is a vital part of our yearly income.

Thank you for praying and for your faithful obedience to the Lord through your support for this ministry. — Harold Jones

granted here in the United States. The weather was extremely hot, which accentuated our thirst and made us more keenly aware of this shortage.

One of the images still etched in our minds was the magnificent buildings being built by the very rich, while in the shadows of the same location were endless shanty homes without water or electricity. The children were often seen without any clothes on, playing, not in beautiful parks or playgrounds, but in construction areas or on garbage-filled streets. There were so many people everywhere. The streets reminded us of anthills with the workers streaming in all directions seeking the fruits of a day's endeavors. We watched their faces and listened to them talk and made a startling discovery. No matter what the day offered them, they seemed for the most part completely oblivious to their surroundings. It was as if they did not see the filth or poverty that stabbed our hearts when we observed the same sights.

From Manila, we flew to the Island of Palawan to the City of Puerto Princesa. It was here that we became suspended in time as if we had entered another world. And it was here, that we gave our hearts to the wonderful Filipino people. The sun that God hung in the sky perhaps best describes the look of love we beheld on those who greeted us at the airport; for, their whole beings seem to light up when we departed the plane. They placed leis around our necks, pinned on corsages, and placed their arms around us even though we had never met. Banners were held high in welcome to Fred and Linda Baker and Harold and Sandra Jones, who were former missionaries in this country returning for a happy reunion.

We were introduced to dozens of people, all of whom made us feel as if we were kings. They carried our luggage and waited on us in every way they could, while we were getting our paperwork in order to enter this part of the Philippines. Children who had grown up in the absence of Fred and Linda were shown off and they in turn produced pictures of their children and grandchild. In between times, they would hug each other again because they were so happy to be reunited. Some of them rode with us to the Casa Linda, where we were going to spend the next few days.

Our lodging, the Casa Linda, was very comfortable and gave us yet another glimpse of the differences between our home and theirs. In the center court grew coconut, mango, and banana trees while pineapples and beautiful flowers snuggled up to their feet. The walls of our rooms were bamboo, and our roof was thatched. Among the cool drinks we could order were mango, banana, and pineapple shakes made with fruit. Later, we came to think of the Casa Linda as an oasis that we would return to at the end of each day and find a refreshing shower, air conditioning, and a comfortable bed.

Beginning early each morning a Jeepney, an open-air vehicle, would arrive to take us to the Palawan Free Will Baptist Bible College or we would walk to the corner and catch a tricycle, which was a kind of motorbike with a side car. We enjoyed these rides because the hot air seemed cooled just a little bit as we streamed down the road with our hair lifted by the breeze.

If you envisioned The Palawan FWB Bible College, we know that you would never form a picture which would match these buildings. The colleges in the United States are grand and glorious, stretching sometimes for miles and able to accommodate hundreds of students, with groomed lawns, beautiful shrubbery, and flowing fountains. There probably is not a marking on our yardsticks of imagination to measure the differences in the appearance of this humble campus. There are no paved roads or landscaped grounds to greet you — only dirt. The dorms and educational buildings are very simple with open-air sides and no doors because of the heat. The restroom facilities (called comfort rooms in the Philippines) are very primitive and were not working while we were there.

The dishes, on which our meals were served, were washed by dipping the plate in one pan of cold water, sitting on the ground and then dipping it again in a similar pan sitting next to it. In between the washing of plates, dogs would quench their thirst by drinking out of the same pans. In special deference to our wishes, banana leaves were used to cover our food to keep the flies from covering the dishes. The food tasted very good for the most part, consisting mainly of rice, rice, and more rice, accompanied by different types of seafood (including octopus and seaweed), and pork (including hogs' heads). The members of our group were really good sports and tried most every dish with an open mind and a strong stomach. Almost every meal included papaya, mango, or bananas. The fried bananas were delicious, cooked in a very small amount of oil wrapped in a thin pastry and served on a stick like a corn dog at the fair.

The only one to suffer any hardship at all while we were stationed at the Bible College was Satan. The joy of the Lord was proclaimed at every meeting in every song, prayer, and message. The ministers in our group preached, sometimes through interpreters and sometimes not, to the congregation hungry to hear the Word of the Lord proclaimed. They clapped their hands and raised them to the heavens even though sometimes they could not understand everything the speaker was saying. It was enough just being in the house of the Lord with other Christians praising His name because He was in their hearts. This kind of worship requires no order of service or bulletin. Because there are no worldly things to get in the way, once Filipinos accept Christ as their personal Saviour, it becomes the most important thing to them. Our hearts were filled and our allegiance to God was strengthened each time we shared in these services.

The Rev. Mike Scott was our speaker on the night of our crusade in the city of Puerto Princesa. The same group who had provided us with music at the Bible College opened this service with a time of song and praise, setting the tone for Mike to speak. Because he is such a dynamic speaker, his voice carried throughout the surrounding area, introducing even the most disinterested to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all praised the Lord together without any kind of prejudice creeping in to hinder our efforts because the color of our



SUN	MON	TUE	
30	1 Free Will Baptist Press Closed Headquarters Closed Bible and Bookstores Open *Labor Day*	2 11:00 PM MOC Opening Convocation	3
7 *Grandparent's Day*	8	9	10
14	15	16 Annual Convention Golf Fellowship Tournament Night of Evangelism, College Hall, 7:30 PM **Convention of Original Free**	17
21	22 *Autumn Begins*	23	24
28	29	30	1

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	THU	FRI	SAT
	4 7:00 PM Layman's League Executive Board	**5**	**6**
ess Deadline ctober Issue)	**11**	**12**	**13**
tion Session l Leadership nter, 6:00 PM Hall, 7:30 PM owing Rally	**18** Convention Session	**19**	**20** Eastern Auxiliary 1st FWB Church Kinston
Baptist — **September 16–18** ——			
	25	**26**	**27** Central Auxiliary
	2	**3**	**4**

October is Minister's Program Month

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

skins or our differences in languages and customs were of no great importance. Many came for prayer at the close of the service. There was one man in particular we remember, who came on crutches with just one leg, to praise the Lord for all His blessings.

Saturday morning was designated as a work day for the men, because there were many repairs to be made to the buildings at the Bible College. They repaired electrical problems, worked on the Comfort Rooms and did a lot of odd jobs here and there with the barest amount of tools.

Everyone had a job to do that day. Don and Karen Ribeiro were busy at the free clinic provided for those who needed medical assistance. The lines always seemed to replenish themselves with new patients as the day passed by. Debbie Fulcher was snipping away with her magic scissors, giving haircuts to all ages making a little mountain of black hair at her feet. I was busy, with the aid of my talented assistants, Linda Baker and Sandra Jones, in conducting a one-day Bible School for the children. We learned about the birth of Jesus and made beautiful silver stars from cardboard and aluminum foil depicting the brilliant Star of the East. What a wonderful blessing for all of us as we ministered in our own way.

Later that day, after a welcome shower, we were off on another adventure. We visited a fishing village where we rented two boats (banca) and visited the Island of Cowrie. Words to describe this beautiful isle fall into the category of Paradise or Shangri-la. Uninhabited and adorned only with a couple of shelters with thatched roofs and a shipwreck turned gently sideways as if it were just taking a nap before slipping back out to sea. Starfish, gloriously red-orange and bisque sand dollars made their beds in the white sands, sharing the neighborhood with conchs, sea biscuits and the sting of the jelly fish. In the midst of the storm of a busy day, God gave us this special place to refresh ourselves and prepare for the ministry of the next day.

On Sunday morning each of the ministers were assigned to hold worship services in the surrounding Free Will Baptist Churches which have been organized through our mission program. We were assigned to the church at Canigaran located approximately 20 minutes from our lodging. Sandra Jones accompanied us as we were picked up by one of the church members on his tricycle. What a beautiful, hot morning that was. We were excited and a little nervous. The church nestled between homes and coconut, banana, and mango trees, had a big sign out front with the name of the church and the pastor, just like our churches here in the United States. A beautiful Bougainvillea tree guarded the church with dark pink blossoms issuing a warm welcome to all who entered. The floors of the building were part concrete and part dirt, the pews were homemade out of rough boards, like the ones we had in our churches when we were children. There were open spaces left in the shapes of windows and doors, but because of the hot weather none actually had them in place. The pulpit had a communion table sitting in front of it with an arrangement of artificial red and white poinsettias, and setting on the floor in a rusty can was a live rose bush in bloom. Behind the pulpit on the wall hung an purple curtain flanked on both sides by yellow curtains. Because the church was open-air, a dog wandered in and lay on the floor to enjoy the service with us. A chalk board was set up with the words of a song which the congregation was learning.

The Pastor had taken the time to write the words of the Free Will Baptist Doctrine which was hung on one of the walls for all to see. Another list attracted our attention as well. There was a list of projects on which the church was working, including building a comfort room (bathroom), putting up a fence, and adding a water pump for running water. It was interesting to see that the comfort room was the most significant and had at the time of our arrival actually been constructed out behind the church. That really sent us down the memory lane of our childhood. We found that the construction of the fence was to keep squatters from moving into the church yard and building a house. Apparently, a fence made of any kind of material was sufficient to make a boundary line and keep trespassers from taking over.

I taught Sunday school for the children outside under the shade of the trees, using material I had brought with me from home, while Harold attended the adult class held inside the church. The lesson I used for the children was about Noah and the Ark. I gave each of them a picture of the Ark filled with animals to color with the crayons I brought with me. Through my interpreter I was trying to explain how to color each of the animals, when God sent me just a small miracle. There on the ground at my feet lay a tiny plastic lion to show the children what color to use. And to complete our assistance from Him, Sandra had brought with her little tops to give the children and they just happened to have Noah's Ark pictured on them. Much later as I was reflecting the events of this day, I felt a special warmth in my heart knowing that God is with us in all things whether great or small.

Harold was blessed to preach a wonderful message that morning. The congregation was very attentive and praised God from the first song to the last Amen. It made us remember that you do not have to be in an air-conditioned church with padded pews to experience the power of the Lord in your life. All you have to be is alive for Jesus.

Being the good Free Will Baptists that we all are, the next thing we did was to push the pews together to make a table and spread out the food for lunch. Now, we didn't have fried chicken and mashed potatoes, but we did have rice (three kinds), and shrimp, seaweed with vinegar, and boiled vegetable we didn't recognize with little green leaves floating on top, a kind of pudding that tasted similar to sweet potato (which we learned would kill you if harvested and eaten at certain times of the year), mangos, bananas, and papaya. We were hungry, and it was delicious.

We now entered the last and perhaps most precious part of our agenda as we traveled to the city of Narra to the youth camp. We traveled in a jeepney over some very rugged roads which led us by the sea and through the mountains where there

always seemed to be an explosion of beauty. The trip was hot and dusty and tiring, resulting in dreams of cold ice cream cones. There was always laughter on those trips we made and never a discouraging word. Our "family" continued to be bonded closer together as the days passed.

The camp site did not compare to Cragmont with its front porch filled with comfortable rocking chairs, but it had a character all its own. The camp was held in an unfinished gymnasium. Over 300 campers came to enjoy this week from everywhere you could imagine. Some had to travel by airplane, boat, and finally by land, which took several days. Jeepneys arrived filled to the brim with children hanging out the open windows and luggage stacked so high on top, that it appeared to threaten the balance of the vehicle at every turn. Even tricycles were packed so full with kids and their stuff that the driver could barely see. The desire to attend this camp was so strong no obstacle was too great or distance too far.

The children and their chaperons bunked down in the suffocating heat behind the bleachers on the gym floor with just a thin mat to cushion the harndess, side by side like pieces of brightly covered chewing gum laid in a row. The "stuff" they brought for the whole week consisted of a plate, a glass, a mat to sleep on, a pillow, a few personal items, and a couple of changes of clothes. A few brought a spoon, but many would eat with their hands without using a utensil. We brought in our luggage enough "stuff" to have lasted them for months, even after we had culled and condensed our things to put in just one suitcase apiece. We are so blessed and don't even realize it. I am sure we appeared to be millionaires compared to their meager lots.

We were escorted to our lodging for the week, which was off a short distance from the gym. I believe the shelter we used was originally intended for gatherings which included music and speakers, because there was a stage area with a podium. The shelter was fenced in all around with a gate we could lock if needed. Our accommodations were first class compared to the ones shared by the campers. We had a choice of sleeping on the cement floor on a thin mat like the campers used or on the wooden tables which lined the outer perimeter of the shelter on the same mats. This decision was made without much debate, as the cockroaches and rats scurried around us and over us in the rafters, to select the tables as they seemed a little safer from the resident guests. We were furnished our mats, pillows and cases by our Filipino hosts. We lined our tables up two per couple with our neighbors' tables at our heads or feet, according to the way we chose to sleep.

The comfort rooms were extremely dirty and very primitive, but were gladly received by all since the alternative was not a pleasant thought. Our baths were taken by filling 5-gallon buckets with water from an outside spigot and using a dipper we purchased at the market to pour water over us, and then rinse with another dipper full after we had soaped down and washed off. Those baths were heavenly after a long day of extremely high temperatures. Again we were reminded of how much we take for granted.

Each day started at 5:00 AM when the loud speakers from our camp sent forth praise songs to awaken the campers. But in direct competition, the Catholic Church located right behind us began their morning catechisms and the Iglesia Ni Cristo (a Philippine cult) began their chanting at exactly the same time. The air was filled with conflicting messages going out to all the world near enough to hear. Still Satan did not enter into our camp. Later on in the week, the cult church, across the road on the other side, pelted the roof top of the gym with rocks trying to disturb the services, but our Lord Jesus was louder than the rocks.

One of our ministers had devotion each morning at the camp to start the day and afterwards we ate breakfast. The rice for the meals each day was cooked in large amounts in a pot on a fire outside of the gym. They actually cooked rice most of the day and night because it was the main staple and was eaten three times each day. Our food was prepared in smaller portions over a tiny two-burner stove and was served on a small table with each dish being covered to protect it from the endless flies. On the other hand, the food served to everyone else was served out of a very large pot with a dipper doling out portions to each child as they came by with their plates. Even the smallest children ate small mountains of rice at each meal.

After breakfast we began a daily routine with people heading out in their own direction. All the men except for Don Ribeiro would set out each day to the building site of a parsonage for the Free Will Baptist Church of Narra. Don and Karen set up their clinic at one end of the same shelter where we were housed, while Debbie's hair cutting line formed in an area nearby. I used the front and center of the same shelter for our daily Bible School functions. There was a pleasant stream of patients, customers and participants coming and going all during the day.

Harold and I would discuss each evening the events of the day before we settled in to fight the mosquitoes and try to find a way to lie down without hitting a spot that was already sore from sleeping on the tables. He gave me a daily account of how the building program was going over at the new parsonage. The heat took its toll every day, but did not dampen the spirits of any of the workers. There were no power tools used; therefore, progress, although steady, was very slow. Mortar was mixed on the ground inside the building area and the cinder blocks were so poor in quality that they crumbled at the slightest touch. Stones were used as hammers and hand saws powered by human strength cut the wood for the house framing. Mike Scott declared the whole building went up with only "string and water" which were the only items the guys let him handle for his and their own protection. This was the source of much laughter during the whole week. Like Harold, each one of the ministers had his own talents to lend toward this endeavor. They worked hard and many long hours, but their perseverance resulted in a basic structure for the pastor and his family to move into with a few more days work after our mission trip had ended.

Suddenly, the time had come to say "good-bye" to all the folks we had learned to love. We had shared our lodging, our food, our knowledge, and our Lord Jesus Christ. For what greater achievement could we ever hope? Tears of sadness flowed freely as we gave our final handshakes, hugs, and kisses. The children came to touch my hand and thank me for Bible school. The adults couldn't find enough words to express their appreciation for the clinic, the haircuts, the participation of everyone in the youth camp, the building of the parsonage and a list that went on and on.

As we traveled back to Puerto Princesa to collect the remainder of our luggage and spend our last night in the Philippines, Harold Jones asked us our opinions of what we had experienced. What a question! I noticed that everyone struggled a little to put their finger on their exact feelings. Perhaps it was something we would all have to sort out in ourselves when we had time to reflect.

Our last hours were spent visiting the market on Saturday morning, getting our final souvenirs and taking our final tricycle ride through the busy streets. After returning to Casa Linda and getting our baggage together we boarded a jeepney and went to Dario and Susan Basingil's home for one more plate of rice and fixings, Philippine style. We felt very honored to accept their hospitality for they had been with us at camp all week and I know they were extremely tired.

A group of our new friends came to the airport with us to say good-bye, give us a last hug, and shed a few tears of sadness. A small portion of "sticky rice" was given to us as a parting gift. And then we were gone — on our way back to our comfortable homes and what we suddenly realized were our rich lives.

What did we gain from this unbelievable experience? I think we can finally answer that question. We learned a great lesson about ourselves. In America we have placed ourselves in a little box and we are very careful not to share Christ with anyone who isn't clean or part of our accepted society. We find it very difficult to go out into the surrounding neighborhoods, towns, cities, or even other countries to do the work of the Lord. In the Philippines, we were blessed to have no restrictions on who we ministered to. I even went out on the dirt streets outside the church and gave stickers to passing children and invited them in to participate in the impromptu Bible school I was holding. I realize that here at home I would not find that so easy to do.

Missions are very important, whether the mission be to those born in America or in another country. We need to include them in our prayers, in our monetary gifts, and in our schedules to give our time and effort for building and supporting their endeavors to win the lost unto Christ. We found out that just a few can make a difference. We gave of ourselves while we were in the Philippines and in return our lives were richly blessed. You too, can make a difference no matter how old or rich you are. There is no distance in prayer because the same God that watches over us is watching over all the world.

Thank you Free Union Free Will Baptist Church for this gift. Your support has allowed us to more humbly serve you as Pastor and wife and has strengthened our faith in our Lord and Saviour.

Minister's Program

The Minister's Widows Fund

July 21, 1997

To: ALL MINISTERS

From: MINISTER'S WIDOWS FUND ENROLLMENT
$10.00

This letter is to announce a new enrollment in the Minister's Widows Fund. We have received word of the death of the Rev. Grady J. Davis of Clinton, NC and his widow received $1,510.00 which represented the proceeds of the fund.

When a participating minister dies then a new enrollment is begun. This will be a single enrollment and the total amont due will be $10.00. Full participation requires one year of uninterrupted enrollments by the participant prior to a claim.

Every married minister can and should be a part of this fund. It is not only a financial blessing to the recipient, but also the fund is a tangible way that you can help in a time of great need.

The last enrollment was a single enrollment for the Rev. Clifton Rice in April, 1997.

For all of our mailings we use the mailing list provided to us by the Convention. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy of this list, but if your address has changed in any way please notify the Convention office in Ayden at PO Box 39.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely

Donald Fader.

Short–Term Team Opportunity Philippines 1998

We encourage churches to send their pastors and wives on a Short-Term Mission. Contact the Board of Foreign Missions for details.

Philippines: This team will depart on April 17 and return on May 3, 1998. The team is open to those 18 years old and up. We need at least two people on this team who have skills in carpentry and masonry who would be responsible for directing the other team members in construction of either a parsonage or a church building.

We also need those interested in youth work, VBS, sports, music, preaching, personal evangelism, and other gifts that you can use in ministry. We can only take 15 people on this team.

New Programs Offered in 1997 – 1998



Dr. J. William Byrd President of Mount Olive College

Four new programs have administrators and staff excited about new possibilities at Mount Olive College this fall. The new programs are a cooperative teacher education program, new course offerings made possible by a satellite link, a new center in Durham serving the Triangle area, and a new modular Church Ministries program. The programs demonstrate how the College is expanding services to the church and the region.

The teacher education program and wider choices for students in the curriculum are the result of Mount Olive College's partnering with other institutions of higher learning. The satellite link makes use of technology to offer more for less. Opening a center in Durham and the modular Church Ministries program are examples of making higher education more accessible to working people.

After graduating a record 372 students in May, Mount Olive College is proactively seeking ways to respond to the marketplace in higher education. Although the traditional market of 18–22 year-old students is Mount Olive's heritage, it is also the toughest market to recruit.

"High school graduates are hard to recruit because the population is limited and the competition for these students is fierce," said Dr. J. William Byrd, College president.

In addition to devoting more recruiting resources to ensure that Mount Olive gets its share of high school graduates, one college strategy is to offer a wider selection of courses and majors to satisfy students' interests. The teacher education program and the new courses imported by satellite enable Mount Olive to offer a broader selection of courses in the curriculum.

...making higher education more accessible to working people.

They get the nurturing and attention that a small college provides, and they get the expertise and experience of a university with vaster resources.

Teacher Education

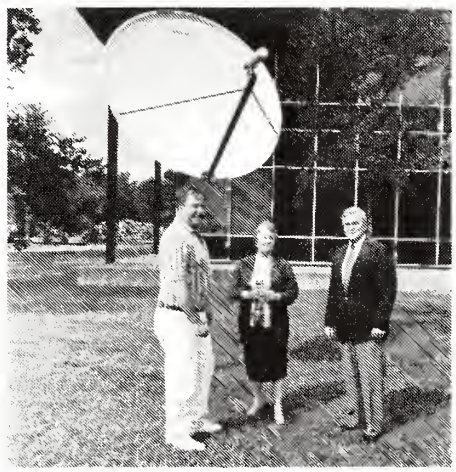
The teacher education program is a cooperative effort with East Carolina University. Students in the program will attend Mount Olive College for three years gaining expertise in a subject field. Then, they will attend ECU for their senior year and one or two summer sessions for the education theory, methods, and practicum. In the end, students receive their degree from Mount Olive and their certification from ECU.

"This partnership provides students with the best of two worlds," Byrd said. "They get the nurturing and attention that a small college provides, and they get the expertise and experience of a university with vaster resources."

Byrd said that the relationship between Mount Olive and ECU is unique because it represents a new model of a large public institution partnering with a small private college to the benefit of both institutions and the region.

Satellite Link

During the summer, Mount Olive installed a new satellite antenna and a high tech classroom to receive live transmissions of courses from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. During the Fall `97 term, Mount Olive will import six courses it previously did not offer.



Mr. Larry Slate, Dean of Academic Support Dorothy Whitley, and President Byrd inspect the College's new satellite antenna which connects Mount Olive College wth Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

ODU has been a leader in developing the technology to transmit courses via satellite from its Norfolk campus to approximately 30 community colleges throughout Virginia. Mount Olive will be the first college in North Carolina to join ODU's network, known as TELETECHNET.

The way the system works is that a professor teaches a course to a room full of ODU students in the traditional way. The classroom, however, is actually a television studio, and the professor's lecture is transmitted live to other locations. Students at the remote locations see and hear the professor. They can also talk with the professor to ask questions or discuss subject matter through microphones on the desks at all the sites where the courses is being received.

Again, the large faculties and vaster resources of a larger university augment the small college providing students with more choices. Because of this arrangement, Mount Olive is now able to offer two new majors. Through a combination of courses already offered on the Mount Olive campus and a few new courses imported via satellite from ODU, students will be able to major in Counseling through Mount Olive's Department of Social Sciences and Health Care Management through the College's Department of Business.

Triangle Campus

In another initiative, Mount Olive College is establishing a new center in Durham, adjacent to the Research Triangle Park, from which it will provide degree-completion programs in business and criminal justice.

"A very large number of North Carolinians have attended some college but have not yet earned a degree," Byrd said. "Most of these people are in the work force; many are married; all have responsibilities. We have a program that is accessible and affordable that will help these people earn their degrees."

Byrd said that the program and services offered at its Triangle site are the same as those located at Mount Olive's evening college and at its locations in New Bern and Wilmington. The programs are geared to individuals who have completed two years of college. Classes meet once a week in the evening or on Saturday for 4-hour seminars for 55 to 57 academic weeks.

"The response to this program has been excellent," Byrd said. "Students are motivated. Retention is high. And feedback from students in the program and from graduates has been good."

Byrd said the Mount Olive College presence in the Triangle will be an option for individuals and employers who value and require higher education to accomplish the sophisticated work that companies in the Triangle are doing.

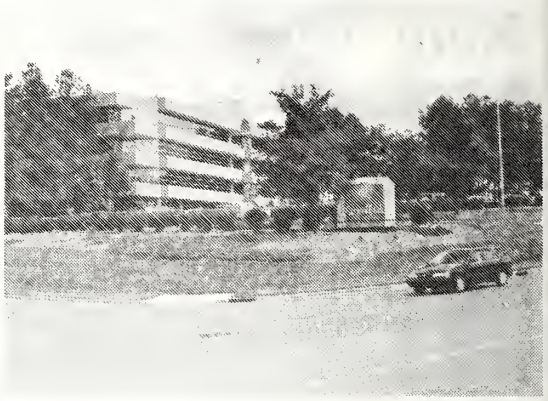
Church Ministries

Due to the vision and hard work of Dr. David Hines, the College will be offering a Church Ministries program in a modular format beginning in January 1998.

Fashioned similarly after Mount Olive's successful Business and Criminal Justice programs, the Church Ministries program is designed for older working people and specifically for licensed ministers and people aspiring to the ministry.

Students will meet once a week on the Mount Olive campus for a 4-hour seminar over a period of 60 academic weeks. The program is divided into 12 modules, or subjects areas, of approximately five weeks each. A student successfully completing the program will earn 37 semester hours toward a major in Church Ministries.

The program is nondenominational within the Christian church. Ministers from all Christian faiths are welcome. More information about this program will be forthcoming. In the meantime, interested individuals may contact Dr. K. David Hines at the College at 919–658–2502.



Above: Mount Olive College is establishing its fifth site this fall in Durham. "The Triangle Campus" will be located on the first floor of this building at Central Park West on South Miami Boulevard, virtually across the street from Research Triangle Park.

Looking ahead to other initiatives during the 1997–1998 academic year, Mount Olive College also will be establishing a School of Business and offering two educational travel opportunities to Europe.

In recent years, the Department of Business has grown to have the largest number of majors with the largest support faculty. Byrd said that establishing a School of Business with its own dean, faculty, and responsibilities for its own curriculum, programs, and policies will make it even stronger.

"Having a School of Business is not only good for the college, it is good for the region," Byrd said. "Our vision is for the school to be a resource center for eastern North Carolina's agri-business economy."

Finally, Byrd said that he was pleased that the college will be offering two travel experiences to Europe this year. One group will be traveling to London during the Fall mid-term break and another will travel to Paris and Madrid during Spring break — a repeat of last year's trip.

"We have lots of things happening at Mount Olive College this coming year that we are looking forward to," Byrd said. "Strategically, we endeavor to be responsive and competitive in our market, attune to trends, and use our limited resources wisely to make education both accessible and affordable."

During September at Mount Olive College

Tuesday, September 2	Fall Convocation, Rodgers Chapel, 11:00 AM.
Tuesday, September 9	Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Time — TBA.
Monday, September 15	Piano Recital featuring Dr. Alan Armstrong, Music Suite on the Mount Olive Campus, 7:30 PM.
Tues. - Thurs., September 16–18	Convention of Orignal Free Will Baptists, College Hall, Times — per program of events.
Saturday, September 27	Bridge Builders Dinner, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, 6:00 PM.

Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner

Saturday , September 27
6:00 PM
Lois K. Murphy
Regional Center
Mount Olive College



The Mount Olive College Concert Choir

The Concert Choir is comprised of approximately 50 students enrolled at the Mount Olive Campus. The Choir will perform a 30-minute program of traditional and contemporary sacred selections. This concert is presented as a gesture of the College's gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their continued support. In seeing these young men and women, we hope that you will share in the pride of the College and feel that the College's service to young men and women is worthy of the Church's continued support.

Dr. Alan Armstrong, Professor of Music, is the Choir Director.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir performs Fall and Spring concerts and at churches in the region as part of its musical ministry.

While this event honors the 1,599 Bridge Builders from the 1996 church dinners, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders, those who make an unrestricted gift of $100 or more at their county gift support dinners, have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

Detach and Return

Reply Form (Please return by September 22)

_____ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 27.

There will be _____ in my party.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Please Mail to: Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street • Mount Olive, NC 28365 • 919–658–2502
(All Friends of Mount Olive College are invited.)



Good, Old-Time Revival

by the Rev. Walt Tyndall, Pastor — Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church

I have had the opportunity to preach during many revival services. Most of the time, there is a genuine desire to have a spiritual awakening, a renewing of our first love, Jesus Christ. It is often easy to tell which churches have made preparations through prayer. Recently, I had the opportunity to be part of an old fashioned, work of God, Spirit-filled revival at Saint's Delight Free Will Baptist Church, Ormondsville.

Since much of the writings of our day in church growth circles deal with mega-churches and growing congregations of hundreds and thousands, many times the small country church is overlooked and neglected. Much of the attention even in our denomination is focused on our larger churches and their growth and activities. While none of this is wrong, and we can be proud of the growth and works of these churches, we need also to remember the small country church has a place in our denomination and communities. Such is the case at Saint's Delight.

Saint's Delight would be considered small by anyone's standards, both in the size of building and the average attendance. However, through the work of the people there under the leadership of their pastor, Jack Weathersby, it has grown significantly over the past few years. A recent article in *The Free Will Baptist* told of their renovations on the building and a little about the growth. The Lord is definitely working in this "small" church in large ways.

I always talk to the pastor of a church a few months prior to revival services to ask him to pray for these services and to encourage the congregation to pray as well. As I talked with Jack, his excitement about what God was doing at this church was very evident. I became excited about preaching there, but at the same time my expectations for a large number of people each night was very low to say the least. Boy, was I wrong! As I talked with Jack prior to the first night's service, he told me how much he and the congregation had been in prayer and their expectations for a mighty work of God were high. As I walked inside I could tell these people were honestly seeking revival, in fact, they were already in revival. I could sense the Spirit of God in a powerful way. Still I felt only a few would show up at this little church seemingly in the middle of nowhere on a Sunday night.

By the time the service started, there were over a hundred people packed into this beautiful sanctuary. There were over twenty different churches from various denominations represented and most important, God was there pouring out His Spirit upon us. Each service began with singing and included several specials by area choirs and soloists. The singing was a blessing in itself and many were touched by the messages in the songs that were sung. The service was very informal and people felt at home. To be honest, it was very easy to stand up and preach after all the singing, because "the table has already been set." The crowds continued for the next three nights. I got a call from Jack on Tuesday night and he asked if I would be willing to preach through Friday night. I gladly agreed and even with no "advertising," the crowds were still above average. A four-night revival turned into six and probably could have gone on longer.

I learned a valuable lesson from all this — God is able to use even our smallest churches to bring about revival in our communities and our denomination. There are no "small" churches when God is working. The line from the song of the same title, "Little is much when God is in it," is proven over and over again throughout the often forgotten "small" churches of our denomination. The power of God was on display as people came to rededicate their lives, the sick were prayed for, and intercession was made on behalf of others. It was a wonderful experience, and one I will never forget.

I wish to thank the congregation of Saint's Delight for letting me be a part of this revival. If you ever get the chance, please visit this wonderful little country church for a true sense of what God can do when His people are willing and ready to be used of Him. Probably not many people even know how to get to Saint's Delight, but all that matters is, God knows where it is. This church is still growing and is still in revival and as long as the people remain open to the Spirit of God, it will be. Thanks again for allowing me to worship with you.

Convention's Five-Year Theme (1995–2000)
"The Call To Renewal"
2 Chronicles 7:14

1997–98 Theme
"The Call to the Word"
Psalm 119:105

News From...

Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church

William J. Godwin: Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church designated June 1, 1997, as Pastor Appreciation Sunday. The congregation of more than 400 people honored the Rev. William J. Godwin for 21 years as pastor. The special worship service program included presentations from Cherubs, AFC, YFA, and Ladies Auxiliary. Martha McPherson, president of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented the Rev. Godwin and his wife, Minnie, each with a framed poem about the Pastor and The Pastor's Wife on behalf of the church. The young adults and children's choirs sang and the service concluded with the song "Thank You" sung by Kammy Cribb. The service was followed by a pig pickin' picnic in the church fellowship hall.



(Photo to right) The Rev. and Mrs. William J. Godwin Family; his parents, William and Idella Godwin (seated); son, Neil and daughter-in-law Starr (far left) and grandson Cody.



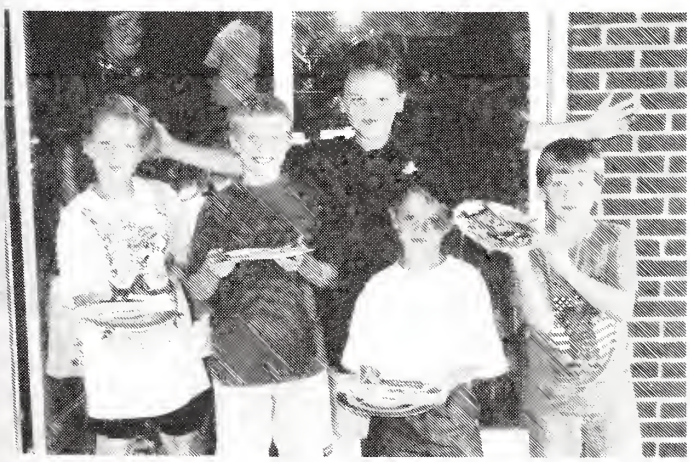
Beaverdam AFC president Heather McPherson (center) and member Deanna Simmons present the Rev. William J. Godwin with a gift during Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

Vacation Bible School: Promise Builders for Jesus

The 1997 Vacation Bible School at Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church was a gathering of "Promise Builders for Jesus." The annual VBS, held in mid-June, had an average attendance of more than 200 youth and adults. A busy crew of "builders" enjoyed Bible study, crafts, tasty treats, games and songs. A highlight of the five-day event was regular visits from the 1997 VBS mascot, Barnabus Beaver.

One special project constructed by the Promise Builders was a giant, brick wall in the church fellowship hall. Each brick in the wall represented either a daily promise to God or a memorized Bible verse. "It was great watching the wall grow during the week, says Susie Fairfax, VBS co-director, "as it grew, we knew our faith was growing too!" Other activities included an ice cream sundae party and a hamburger/hot dog picnic.

As a special outreach project, the participants released helium balloons at the conclusion of the week. Each balloon contained a message of faith from a VBS class! Be on the lookout for one of them!



Beaverdam youth with crafts made during the 1997 Vacation Bible School. The theme for VBS was "Promise Builders for Jesus."



VBS co-director Donna McPherson leads the assembly of "promise builders" in the Pledge to the Bible.

Activities at Powhatan

by Rita Otto Jones

On Saturday evening July 26, the Smith Family gospel group held their 13th Anniversary Sing at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church. The church was filled to overflowing! Many of the guests were visitors from churches where the Smith Family had performed and taken their message in song in the past year. Joining the Smith Family were the Williams from Goldsboro, NC, and their 10-year-old daughter. Part of their message is the importance of reaching youth with the gospel. Refreshments were enjoyed following the service in the church fellowship hall.

Members of the youth group of Powhatan attended the fellowship day at the Children's Home in Middlesex on Saturday, August 2. Collections had been made over the past weeks of supplies that were carried and given for the children. A love offering had also been taken the previous Sunday and was presented to the Children's Home. The banner for runner-up in overall attendance was brought back by Powhatan. Everyone enjoyed the games, and dunking booth, the meal, etc.

Sunday, August 3, was a very special day for Powhatan. Our pastor, Jim Bogle received his ordination at Trinity Church and became the "Reverend" Bogle. Much of the church membership was present for the 3 PM ceremony, nearly filling Trinity. The Bogles are originally from Granite Falls, NC. The Rev. Bogle related how he had joined the membership at Trinity in Clayton in 1981. He and his wife, Martha, worshiped there for fifteen years before he came to Powhatan as an interim pastor. He received his calling at Trinity. He thanked Lloyd Hargis (current pastor at Mt. Zion and former pastor of Trinity) for his help and cited several other preachers who had received the calling at Trinity — Scott Casey, Terry Ellis, and Charlie Carroll. Rev. Carroll (now pastor of Wootens Chapel) addressed the congregation and gave words of encouragement to Mr. Bogle, saying things could change in a church fellowship but the word of God will never change. He asked the congregation to continue to pray for Mr. Bogle and Martha as they serve God at Powhatan.

The Rev. Lloyd Hargis spoke of how things seem to work full circle. He had received his calling at Powhatan in 1972, was ordained there, and came to Trinity to preach. Today, he had the pleasure of assisting in the ordination of the Rev. Bogle who had received the calling at Trinity, been ordained at Trinity, and is preaching at Powhatan.

Another example of life's circles — I still have the Bible I received from my junior Sunday school teacher at Powhatan, around 1970. He and his wife worked diligently with the youth at Powhatan, leading the youth choir, attending youth rallies, etc. He never wavered from teaching the Bible and setting an example for us in worship. That teacher was the Rev. Lloyd Hargis. Now, my children are learning the same lessons at Powhatan under the leadership of the Rev. Bogle.

Westside Pastor Receives Award



The recipient of this years's P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award is the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, pastor of Westside Original Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, NC. Pictured is Dr. K. David Hines, the chairman of the Pastor's Award Selection Committee, as he congratulates Pastor Daughtry.

The award of $1,000.00 is made possible each year by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, NC, in memory of his great-grandfather, Elder P. T. Lucas.

The purpose of this award is to recognize a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community, and denomination. Emphasis is upon pastoral services and may include bi-vocational pastors who serve small churches. The award is to be used by the recipient to strengthen and enrich his pastoral ministry. The recipient is to provide a written report within one year of being recognized of how the funds benefited his pastoral ministry.

The award is administered by Mount Olive College and is presented each year in connection with the James A. Evans Lecture. The year's recipient was chosen from a list of other Free Will Baptist pastors who had been nominated for the award.



Pictured is Dr. James A. Evans who was in attendance at Mount Olive College during the James A. Evans Lecture. With him were members of his family, including his daughter, Mrs. Ann Haddock of Chesapeake. Dr. Evans resides with his daughter, Ann.

CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE
July 28 – August 2, 1997



The Theme of the Conference was "Free To Follow Him."

There were 116 campers in attendance. Ruth Cotton West of Pennyslvania, did the morning Bible study. Donna Holland directed the Conference. Alma D. Cox directed the music, Gladys Corbett was organist, and JoAnn Parrish was Pianist. Becky Jo Sumner did a nightly Bible study.

Morning Devotions were by Amy Scott. Adeline Gray, Teresa Grubbs, Sandra Jones. Jean Ackiss conducted the Vesper Service on Friday night. Frances Phillips was camp nurse.

The Rev. Harold Jones brought the message Friday night.

THE CROSS
written by Eleanor Baker



Two thousand years ago, there was a great exchange. On a Cross outside Jerusalem, Jesus Christ gave His life in exchange for ours. The Cross was an emblem of pain and guilt, but has been adopted by Christians as the most glorious badge of a servant and follower of the Christ, who was crucified on it.

This beautiful bronze cross adorns the front of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston, NC. It was given to the Church and dedicated in special services on Easter Sunday morning. It was dedicated also in honor of our pastor, Jeff Daughtry and his family, which includes his wife Wanda and children, Joy, Daniel, and Amy. It enhances the beauty of our church and we praise God for this special gift.

Mrs. Ruth Taylor Honored

On July 10, 1997, the employees of the Free Will Baptist Press gathered at the Riverside Steak Restaurant, Greenville, NC, to honor Mrs. Ruth Taylor for her years of dedicated service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation. After lunch was served, Mrs. Taylor was presented a plaque of Appreciation by Mr. R. Clifford Gray, Executive Director of the Press.



Mrs. Taylor is now living with relatives in Pennsylvania. Because of her plan to move, she found it necessary to resign and her resignation was received with regret. Her new address is: Rothsville Station, Lititz, PA 17543.

FYI

REVIVAL SCHEDULED
October 5–8, 1997

Revival services will be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, NC, beginning at 7:00 PM each evening. The speaker will be the Rev. Roy Clifton. The Pastor is the Rev. Sam Weeks.

Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by First Free Will Baptist Church
Kinston, North Carolina
September 20, 1997

Theme: Courage
Theme Verse: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).

Order of Service:

9:30	Registration	Nettie Jenkins Vickie Wade
10:00	Call to Order	Judith Kennedy
	Prayer for Convention	
	Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy"	105
	Welcome	Irene Jenkins
	Response	Amy Scott
10:10	Scripture and Prayer	Doris Barwick
10:20	Special Music	Annie Bell Pinson Tony Parrish
10:30	President's Remarks	Cathy Crumpler
	Business Session	
	Secretary's Report	
	Treasurer's Report	
	Appointment of Committees	
10:45	Camp Vandemere Report	Julia Ann Gaskins
	Convention Offering for Camp Vandemere	
10:50	Ministry Reports	
11:00	Hymn: "All the Way"	305
11:10	Memorial Service	Adaline Gray
11:15	Special Music	Annie Bell Pinson
11:20	Worship Service	Happy Taylor
11:45	Hymn: "He Leadeth Me"	281
12:00	Miscellaneous Business	
	Treasurer's Report	
	Committee Reports	
12:15	Lunch Announcement	
	Benediction	Tony Parrish

Music Director: Annie Bell Pinson
Pianist: Nina Grace Register
Ushers: Laura Monroe, Sara Watson, Kay Avery, Mae Clark

Change of Address

Mrs. Dola Dudley's address has changed from 202 Skyland Drive to:
105 Annie Parker Circle, Smithfield, NC 27577

Western District Auxiliary Convention

Kenly Free Will Baptist Church
Kenly, North Carolina
October 1, 1997

Theme: Children's Home
Scripture: Matthew 19:14

9:00	Registration	
9:30	Hymn	
	Devotion	Psalm 127:3
	Welcome	Lena Grey Pope
	President's Remarks	Betty Lynch
9:50	Hymn	
	Convention Offering	
	Denominational Ministries Report	The Rev. Scott Sowers
	Youth Report	Cathy Creech
10:25	Memorial Service	
	Business Session	
11:00	Break	
11:20	Hymn	
	Report from Children's Home	Dr. Bobby Taylor
	Offering for Children's Home	
	Special Music	Kenly Church
	Convention Message	Dr. Bobby Taylor
	Benediction	
12:30	Lunch	

It's a Boy!



Keith and Shirley Pelletier of Creswell, announce the birth of a son, Andrew Joseph, on June 24, 1997, at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Pelletier of LaGrange. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Tarkington of Creswell. The Pelletiers are serving in their fourth year in the pastorate of Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church, Creswell, NC.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Convention Session

The Eighty-fifth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will be held on September 16–18, 1997, at College Hall, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina. The Convention will begin with the Night of Evangelism on Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. The opening session of the Convention will be held on Wednesday, beginning with Bible Study at 8:00 AM. The afternoon will include the option of a workshop/seminar from 4:00 – 5:00 PM. The Sunday School Board has planned their annual Leadershp Banquet for 6:00 PM in the Murphy Center. At 7:30 PM we will gather in College Hall for the Missions Rally. After the Missions Rally, everyone is invited to a reception which will take place in the Murphy Center, in recognition of Original Free Will Baptist Home Missions and Evangelism's twenty-five years of service. The Convention will reconvene on Thursday.

1997 Theme

The Convention is still operating under the five-year theme, "The Call to Renewal." This year's focus is "The Call to the Word" and the theme Scripture is Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Each of the worship services will focus on the theme. The Night of Evangelism will focus on what God's Word says about Evangelism. Wednesday's worship will highlight the Word on Commitment. Direction from the Word concerning Ministry will be the theme of Thursday's worship time.

Workshop Opportunities

This year ministers, delegates, and visitors are invited to participate in a workshop/seminar from 4:00 – 5:00 PM on Wednesday. The workshops will be held in the upstairs classrooms of College Hall. Mary Dudley, executive director of the Sunday School Ministry will offer a workshop on Sunday school. Mike Nasson, Public Information Director at Mount Olive College, will offer a seminar on using news releases to make your church known in the community. Scott Sowers, executive director of the Convention, will offer a workshop on using the computer in ministry. There will be a sign-up table during registration and the morning session of the Convention on Wednesday.

Checklist for Convention Preparation

- Have you prayed for the Convention?
- Have you registered for the Convention?
- Has your church sent its annual report letter?
- Has your church sent its contribution to the Convention and Denominational Ministries?
- Have you contacted the Convention office with any questions that you have?

Mission Statement

The mission of the people of God called Original Free Will Baptists is to glorify God, therefore, we strive to know Christ, build His church, and make Him known to all people as we continue to seek His will. We believe this mission can be fulfilled through...

WORSHIPPING

"...worship the Father in spirit and in truth..." (John 4:23).

GROWING

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18).

CARING

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

SHARING

"...freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8b [7–10])

EQUIPPING

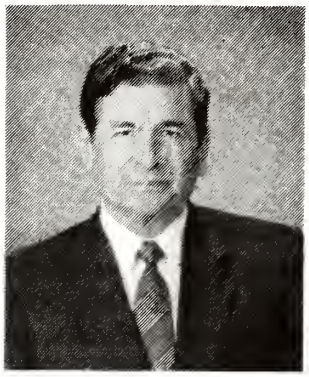
"For the perfecting [equipping] of the saints, for the work of ministry..." (Ephesians 4:12a).

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

Don't Wait Too Long

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).



Dr. W. Burkette Raper

A Time for Priorities

I view the writings of *The Golden Years* as sitting down with close friends to share the concerns of life which are most important to us.

During our middle years we live by decisions that were made in our youth: decisions regarding our life's work; how far we would go with our education; whether to marry or remain single; and most importantly, our relationship with God.

Our senior years require decisions that are no less significant: decisions regarding retirement, health, family relationships, financial security and estate planning. The major difference is that these decisions are more complex and they are set in a shorter time frame. More than ever, our senior years are a time for priorities.

One of the most memorable experiences of my childhood was a trip to the county fair with my father. Upon entering the gate, he told me I could have three rides, and he suggested that we walk around to see what was there and then I could choose the three I liked best. The advice sounded good until I came to the first ride — little cars on a rotating platform. I had to have that ride. I could turn the "steering wheel" but it made no difference in the direction the car went.

My father again suggested that we look around, but the next ride to which we came was also a must — little hobbyhorses that hardly hobbled. One more ride was left, and once again my father urged, "Let's see what is here before you take your last ride." It was to no avail — my next ride was the next one I came to, a merry-go-round of swings which barely left the ground.

Then we went to the midway where there were bumper cars which the driver could really steer and large hobbyhorses with music. There were even live ponies, and the Ferris wheel with its bright lights was a sight to behold. But my pleading for another ride was to no avail. I had my three; my father stuck to his word, and I learned a lesson I have never forgotten — priorities rather than immediate gratification.

Priorities and Time

"We are always getting ready to live, but never living," wrote Emerson.

In planning for retirement, it is easy to assume that terminating our employment will provide time to do all the things we have always wanted to do but could not. Well, just ask those who have retired and the most frequent comment will likely be, "I am busier than ever."

When my father carried me to the fair, the limitations of three rides was for financial reasons. Money for a tenant farmer in the Great Depression of the 1930s was in short supply. Today, the limitation is time. While we are mentally and physically independent, it is time to establish our priorities and live by design rather than being consumed by the routine of life and simply responding to whatever confronts us.

As senior citizens, it is not wise to keep postponing our lives; whatever we are going to do, we need to do it now. We must not wait too long.

Priorities and Purpose

One of the most valuable lessons we can learn is that true success in life is not measured by how busy we are, but by whether we find meaning and purpose in living. There is a time to *be* as well as a time to *do*, and in the final analysis, what we become is as important as what we have done. Unless we set priorities — that is, identify those things which are most important to us — our lives will be absorbed by the trivia.

During the last day of a seminar on human values which I attended recently, the moderator asked a question I am still

Cont. on next page.

1997 (Vol. 2, No. 11)
W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions are welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



The following is a list of workshop topics which are available through the Sunday School Board. If any church, union, or district is interested in arranging such a workshop or training session or desires to have the Director come to share the work of the Sunday School Ministry, please contact Mary Dudley at (919) 568–3311.

1. Importance of Sunday School
2. How to Use David C. Cook Literature
3. Study of Ephesians
4. How We Learn
5. Multiple Intelligences and the Sunday School Curriculum
6. Designing Lessons Without a Teacher's Guide
7. Questioning Techniques
8. Leadership Skills for Superintendents and Teachers
9. Accepting Diversity in People
10. Discipline in the Sunday School
11. Teaching to Make a Difference
12. The Sunday School Council
13. Games and Other Activities to Accompany Sunday School Lessons
14. Duties and Responsibilities of Sunday School Teachers and Officers
15. How to Use Multi-Media
16. Leadership Styles
17. Effective Teaching Techniques
18. Growth Principles and Method for Adult Classes
19. The Urgency of Christian Nurture
20. What Every Sunday School Teacher Should Know
21. Tips for Teachers of All Ages
22. Understanding People with Special Needs
23. Achieving Active Participation for Class Members
24. Why No One Learns Much of Anything in Church and How to Fix It
25. How to Evangelize the Sunday School
26. Active Listening
27. Equipping the Sunday School

Memo: If anyone wishes to make a contribution to the work of the Sunday School Ministry, please make checks payable to:

OFWB Sunday School Board
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513

Send to the above address or to:

OFWB Sunday School Board
c/o Mary Dudley
1770 Will Cunningham Road • Deep Run, NC 28525

The Golden Years: Don't Wait Too Long Cont....

pondering: "Imagine five years from now you are walking behind two friends who know you well. They are talking about you but are not aware of your presence. What would you like most to hear them say?"

The moderator paused for each of us to write our private thoughts and then he suggested that we periodically review what we had written and ask if the direction of our lives was making us the person we wanted to be.

Our senior years can be our most rewarding and our most fulfilling. Those of us who are privileged to reach this stage in life have an opportunity to weave the threads of past years into a meaningful mosaic.

"Leave no tender word unsaid,
Love while life shall last.
The mill will never turn again
With water that has passed."
(Anonymous Irish Poem)



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Ruth Lancaster Warrick. *New Devotions*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 1997. 283 pages.

Introduction

Ruth Lancaster Warrick gives us a spirited, sweet, soul-reflecting meditation for each day of the year in her *New Devotions*. We realize from the beginning that she is an active Free Will Baptist, a church-going Christian, a prayerful woman who is edging her way toward the last years of her life. She lives alone, volunteers to work in the Johnston Memorial Hospital, attends church meetings, Cragmont Conference, concerts, and Dr. Billy Graham's seminars at "The Cove" near Asheville. She reads the newspapers, watches evangelical programs, re-runs of Lawrence Welk, and news on television. She prays for her friends, visits nursing homes, visits the needy. To keep a grip on the meaning of life, the process of aging, the value of belief, and the urgency of prayer, she writes her daily devotions. These sweet, generous reflections are her gift to us.

Power of Metaphors

To make her meditations have crisp energy, human association, and imaginative power, she often uses the metaphor. For example, she recalls the night she tried to light the nativity scene her daughter had given her. Trouble happened, because the small cords connecting the individual parts were problematic. The large cord that plugged directly into the outlet was fine. She observed, "There is a spiritual meaning in all this. Unless we abide in the vine, the main line, there is no power for salvation" (261).

The colors of the rainbow have metaphor power as she describes red as "the blood of Jesus," blue as "a state of sadness without Christ," yellow as "the sunshine of God's love," and green as "growing" for God (128).

Historical Events

Aware of history, Ruth Warrick uses historical events as a springboard for reflection. She recalls the day her brother was aboard the USS Arizona "when it was bombed in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941." She muses: "He was literally blown off the ship which meant the saving of his life. Through the fiery waters, he helped to save others and God has given him over fifty years since that time" (239).

She gives us glimpses of Lydia van der Plas in Bulgaria, of William Booth in London in 1865, of D-Day, of the writing of the Bill of Rights, of the Exodus of the Israelites led by Moses.

Conclusion

Ruth Warrick has a skill with lingering lines. Some of her thoughts hover in the memory, because the concepts dance about the heart. Among these gems are the following:

(a) "God demands that we sow the seed and He will be the one who brings forth the fruit" (220).
(b) "His Word is spoken of as a devouring flame, a crushing hammer, saving power, and a defensive weapon" (204).
(c) "God is in control, and whatever comes our way, we are anchored in Him" (210).
(d) "It isn't the multitude of words, but the attitude of the heart that God honors" (206).
(e) "God is able to make us look beautiful with His joy shining in our hearts and faces" (137).
(f) "Since the time of Eve, I think most people fear snakes. We should fear sin even more" (140).



New Devotions is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson

READER'S COMMENTS

Letters from PO Box 159

"I sure do enjoy the articles in *The Free Will Baptist*. I congratulate you on it and also on your work at the Press…

"I'll be 86 years old on July 15. Thank the Lord and give Him the praise."

The Rev. Rashie Kennedy
356 Turkey Point Road
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

"We found it interesting that you have been thinking about the same subject my husband and I have been talking about recently. I am referring to the statement "Which Shall It Be" in the Editor's Thoughts in the July issue of "The Free Will Baptist."

"My personal opinion: No man or woman, regardless of education, deserves the title of Reverend. Yes, doctor, etc; that is a degree.

"As mentioned in your remarks, the Bible only makes mention of the title in Psalm 111:9 and that is with reference to God Himself. Why should "minister" or "pastor" not be sufficient?

"You and I know our denomination has many ministers who have never completed not even formal training in our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government* and trying to lead congregations — it is not fair. We need requirements that every minister take training in our beliefs. We feel this is the main reason we lose so many members of our denomination to others and in many cases form other denominations.

"I have personally heard one of our ministers make the remark, 'I'm not sure how this is written or how the old Free Will Baptist believe, but I believe.' This tells me something is wrong.

"We cannot speak for others, but our local Methodist congregation refers to and addresses their pastor as *minister* or *pastor*.

"Many thanks for the opportunity to share our opinion."

Helen W. Smith, Benson, NC

It's Who You Know

Tim Hansel

Two men were asked to read the Twenty-third Psalm in a service. This first man was a gifted orator. No one had ever heard this famous passsage read with such elegance. When he finished, the congregation murmured their approval.

The second man was older and hadn't learned how to project his voice. He had never heard of meter and rhythm. On some words he almost slowed to a stop, as if to savor the fullness of their meaning. There were unmeasured pauses. Then very deliberately he would begin again, emphasizing certain words with a curious power.

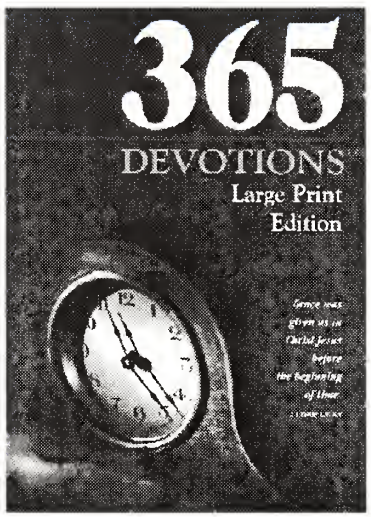
When he finished, there was stunned silence — and then the people stood and responded to his reading with a two-minute standing ovation.

What was the difference? The first man knew the Twenty-third Psalm. The second man knew the Shepherd.

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me (John 10:14).

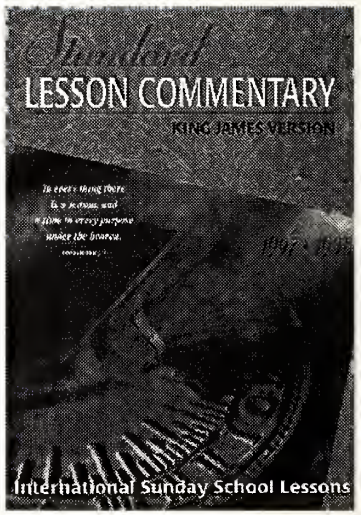
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October 1997

The Free Will Baptist



FEATURING:

The Sound of Marching

Casey the Greedy Young Cowboy

Listening to the Unchurched

Clergy Appreciation

Untapped Leadership

Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

The Heart of a Pastor

Of all the areas of ministry, there is no other that possesses the uniqueness of a pastor. When responding to God's call to commitment and service, the general response is, "God has called me to preach," or, "to be a preacher." Little thought is given to the various types of ministries; indeed, its often too early to know or distinguish the difference.

In Ephesians 4 Paul writes about the ministry gifts of Christ to the body of believers — the Church. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (vv. 11–12). Five kinds of gifted people are given by Christ to the Church for the purpose of edifying (building up) the body of Christ. Each has its purpose within the plan of God. It is not our purpose in these remarks, however, to discuss the place and importance of each one, but to focus on the uniqueness of the pastoral ministry.

A pastor is a shepherd, and a shepherd is one who tends (cares for) a herd or flock. Christ our Lord is the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). Pastors are His under shepherds; their foremost allegiance is to Him. Service and dedication to the flock follows. This means there is a divine obligation to minister to the local congregation he/she is serving.

Not all ministers are pastors. Some have been led by God into other areas of service. It may be in the area of teaching, Christian writing and religious publications, evangelism, etc. Each minister has to determine, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, into which area of service to enter, and it may vary from time to time in one's life. In discussing the uniqueness of pastoral ministry with those who have entered into other areas of ministry, there is one consensus — you will always miss that pastoral relationship with a church.

A pastor is a preacher, but he is also an administrator, a counselor who gives comfort and guidance, and a teacher; in other words, a servant. He performs weddings, conducts funerals, participates in the dedication of infants, attends community affairs as a representative of the church, and is active in his denomination's programs. He supports each phase of the church, including youth ministry, Sunday school, women's organizations, senior citizens, and whatever else may be required. He visits the sick and shut-ins, whether in the hospital, nursing home, or at home. He prays for them and sometimes anoints them with oil. He sits with the family members whose loved one is undergoing surgery and is often with them when a loved one dies. In the midst of all these activities, he must find time to prepare his sermons, and also time for his personal devotional life. His sermons must admonish the erring and they must also "feed the flock."

A pastor's time is not his own. He is subject to be called during any twenty-four hour period. Vacations often end abruptly because of a member's sickness or death. His wife and family often get along without him. Whatever he does is under scrutiny by someone. If he is not a good "preacher," he may compensate by being a good pastor, caring for his flock. If he has the necessary charm, grace, and personality to meet the public well, he may not be a good preacher; therefore, with luck, he will strike a happy medium. If he takes up too much time with the young people, he may offend the older members, or vice-versa.

If he learns to live with all this and loves what he is doing, if he mourns with those who mourn, if he learns to truly share his life with others, if he can say to his people, "I love you," then he has the heart of a pastor. If your church has such a minister, then love him and show that love through your support. Let him know that you appreciate his ministry to you and your church on October 12, which is Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

My Brother, Quentin

Thomas Quentin Overman was my only brother, the oldest of us four children. The other two are Janice and Athalene. Quentin's death came on June 5, 1997, after nearly two years of a terminal condition, a type of bone marrow cancer. During the time of our father's death in April of 1995, and after Quentin's condition had been diagnosed, he asked me if I would have the Eulogy at his funeral. I reluctantly agreed, and I'm glad I did.

Quentin was a member of Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Wayne County, NC. He was a veteran of World War II. He was wounded in action and thus received a Purple Heart. From his earliest years, he learned about radios and later televisions and his vocation was in that field of work. About the age of ten, he bought his first musical instrument — a mandolin which he ordered from a mail-order catalog. My sisters and I admired him for his knowledge and abilities. Several months before his death, he gave me one of his old radios, an old table-top Philco that was crafted in the 1920s. It serves as a reminder of his craft and unique abilities.

Somehow his death came too early in life, for his wife and family and for us. But that's the way things seem when we get older and age takes on a new dimension.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

November is Children's Home Month

October is Minister's Program Month

The Sound of Marching

by Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

> "And it shall be when thou hearest the sound of a going [marching] in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee to smite the host of the Philistines." (2 Samuel 5:24).

"A revival of religion is indispensable to avert the judgment of God from the church... The fact is, Christians are more to blame for not being revived, than sinners are for not being converted. And if Christians are not awakened, they may know assuredly that God will visit them with His judgments. How often God visited the Israelites with judgments because they would not repent and be revived at the call of his prophets."

— Charles Finney

"All over the world Christian people of all denominations are expecting something. We may not all dream the same dream. We may not all express in the same way the newborn hope that has arisen in our hearts of God's something that is on the way. It may be when the veil is drawn asunder, when the church has been made ready, when the time has come for God to act, and to take the cataract off the eyes of the nation, that the mode and the method of the great ministry of the Spirit of God, for a great outpouring, shall be very different from what we see and feel and hear today. But I care not how it comes; I care not through whom it comes; I care not what method is adopted so long as that method is in accordance with the will of the Divine Spirit of God. I feel the day is drawing swiftly near when men shall sink their differences, and shall come together to a place called Calvary, and there repent of their own foolishness of the days gone by, and looking up into the face of God's anointed, shall say, "Thy kingdom come."

—William Reid

God is at work among His people around the world today. His Spirit is being poured out and multitudes are coming into His glorious Kingdom. A great harvest is at hand as the Church is preparing even in the midst of divine judgments, shakings and purgings as thousands and thousands of God's saints join in prayer and fasting for revival and a great moving of the Holy Spirit upon His people. For without a sweeping revival and a shaking of the foundations, there is little hope for America as the tides of secularism and materialism continue to erode the soul of this great land! Renewal must come by way of divine intervention or we will continue to skid down the road of selfishness, immorality, and self-destruction.

When Israel was threatened to possible extinction by the dreaded Philistines soon after David came to the throne of Israel, he sought divine guidance that God might intervene on their behalf. As David led his army out to battle, he soon realized it was not his battle, but the Lord's battle. Hearing this sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, according to the word of the lord, David made his assault and Israel celebrated a complete victory over the enemy, resting in complete confidence of God: *for then is the Lord gone out before thee to smite the host of the Philistine!* The sound in the mulberry tree was to be the sign that "God's host" was on the move, and that the powers of Heaven were being thrown into the conflict to secure the overwhelming victory. David, followed the commands of God, enjoyed the great victory because God went into the battle on behalf of His people.

Shall we not seek God's face today, and seek His intervention for the victory of the Church against the deadness of spiritual apathy within and the pull of a degenerate and Godless society without? Has not this secular, materialistic society contaminated our faith and confused our standards with its humanistic mindset to the point that many of those in the church do not have any standards of right and wrong? We are now in a culturel and society that says "I can set my own standards and values!" The standards of the New Testament discipleship and the standards for church membership may be two different issues in much of the church today!

How real is eternity to us? Or, how real is the Lord's return and the coming of universal judgment when all persons will give an account and eternal destinies will hang in the balance? Do these words and standards really determine what we do and what we do not do, or is it religious tradition and spiritual habit that shape our thinking? Of this brand of religion Jesus had very harsh words: "...This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me... in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of man...ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:6–9).

Dear reader, do we not need to lift up our voices in united prayer for a great spiritual awakening and a harvest of souls? From time to time God moves in His sovereign will and grace among His people that they might be

"refreshed," renewed, and the divine fire rekindled in the hearts of His people.

Such was the scene in Rupert, Vermont, in 1803, when the spiritual condition of the little community had degenerated and stagnated as the so-called Second Great Awakening was underway. Pastor John B. Preston was greatly burdened over the spiritual condition of his flock and the community. He called together a handful of faithful believers and shared his burden with them. The small group was greatly moved and banded together for prayer on a regular basis. As the prayers and hearts were lifted to Heaven, deep conviction began to grip their hearts as more people began to join in the prayers for a move of God in their midst. In November of 1803, "there came a sound from heaven" as the Spirit fell upon the Church "like a rushing mighty wind." It was as if another Day of Pentecost had dawned as the effects were immediate. Scarcely a family in the entire town could be found that someone was not seeking salvation! The days of God's glory spread over the Church and the community. Preston wrote these words as he sought to understand what had happened:

"It is impossible to describe the amazing change of appearance that took place within a few days. It was truly glorious to stand and see the salvation of God. How true, that when Zion travaileth she shall bring forth children. When Christians are enabled to open their eyes, and their hearts are enlarged in prayer, how soon the Lord cures their sore complaint and fills their soul with good!"

Pastor John B. Preston subsequently baptized eighty-four person that were added to the Church at Rupert.

Truly, the sound of marching is in the mulberry trees! It does not take many to kindle revival fires — it simply takes sincerity, a broken and burdened heart, a humility to lay one's self before the sovereign God of the ages. "...for then is the Lord gone out before thee to smite the host of the Philistine." The Lord our God surely does the most surprising things!

A Lesson in Family Values

Casey the Greedy Young Cowboy

Michael P. Waite

Cowboy Casey had a horse,
A purebred pedal-horse of course.
He raced it 'round the kitchen chairs
And galloped up the hallway stairs.

He trotted to the living room
To watch his favorite noon cartoon.
His favorite show was *Cowboy Days*,
He watched it while his horsey grazed.

And as he watched his cowboy show
With bucking broncs and rodeos,
Cowboy Casey had a thought—
"Hey! They've got stuff I haven't GOT!
All those cowboys on TV
Have more cowboy stuff than me!"

So, Cowboy Casey wrote a list,
He wrote so long he strained his wrist!
'Stuff I need' he wrote on top,
And then he ran to Mom and Pop.

"Here," said Casey, "here's a list.
I need this stuff, I must insist!
Every cowboy on TV
Has this stuff...but not poor me!"

His mom and dad were pretty shocked,
A long time passed before they talked.
"This list is rather long," said Dad.
"You're sure you need these things real bad?"
Cowboy Casey nodded, "Yes."
And said, "Make sure you get the best!"

"Now, Casey," Mom said with a frown.
"I think that you should look around.
We've bought you cowboy hats and boots,
Silver stars and two six-shoots.
But more than that, you shouldn't groan—
You have a family, friends, a home!"

That made Casey very mad—
Very mad at Mom and Dad!
He jumped upon his horse's back
And stormed outside—the door went SMACK!

He rolled his pedal-horse along,
Humming angry cowboy songs.
But as he muttered at the sky,
Something near him caught his eye—
A poster for a rodeo!
A rodeo! What do you know!
With cowboys, hot dogs, bulls, and clowns—
Coming soon to Casey's town.

Cowboy Casey snatched the sign
And pedaled home in little time.
Forgetting that he'd been so mad,
He showed the sign to Mom and Dad.
"Sure," they said, "we'd love to go—
We'll take you to the rodeo!"

The rodeo was big and loud.
What a show! And what a crowd!
They rode on bulls and broncos, too,
It was like a dream come true!

And then there came a big surprise...
A cowboy who was Casey's size!

Casey watched the boy and thought,
"What a swell life that kid's got!
His parents must be really great...
I'll bet that he's not even eight!"

The boy, whose name was Bronco Bill,
Had a trailer on a hill.
Casey watched Bill go inside,
And then he took a little ride.

He went and knocked on Bill's front door...
No answer...so he knocked once more.
He opened it, and looked around.
Then heard a sobbing sound—
And there, in tears, was Bronco Bill
Leaning on the windowsill.

"Oh, my!" said Casey. "Are you hurt?
Did you get shot by Black-eyed Bert?"
"No," sobbed Bill, "I just feel sad.
I wish I had a mom and dad.
I live hear all alone, you see,
'Cause I don't have a family!"

"You mean that's *all*?" said Casey doubting.
"That's no reason to be pouting!
You've got everything you need—
Bulls and guns and broncs with speed!"
"Sure," said Bill, "but I'm alone.
Would you want this for a home?

Casey the Greedy Young Cowboy, Cont...

All the others in the show
Have a home, a place to go.
Look around, What do you see?
Is this a place you'd want to be?"

The place was small and dark and sad—
No pets, no friends, no Mom and Dad.
"How awfully lonely," Casey thought.
"I'd rather have the life I've got!"

It all came clear to Casey then—
How awfully thankless he had been...
Thankless for the things he had,
Thankless for his mom and dad.
All this time he'd whined and moaned
While living in a happy home!

And as he hung his head in shame,
He heard a voice call out his name.
"Casey! Casey! Where are you?
It's time to go, the show is though."

Quickly Casey got a plan.
"Come on!" he cried, and took Bill's hand.

"Hey, Mom! Hey, Dad!" Casey screamed.
They turned and both their faces beamed!
"Casey, Son, where did you go?
You had us worried sick, you know!"

"Meet my new pal, Bronco Bill,
He lives along up on the hill.
He's even in the rodeo...
He's the best one in the show!
"And he's got tons of cowboy stuff,
But I found out that's not enough.
You see, he has no Mom or Dad...
And that's why Bronco Bill's so sad.

"He really shouldn't be alone...
Don't you think he needs a home?
I could sort of be his brother—
You could be his dad and mother!
'Cause you're the greatest, Mom and Dad—
And having you sure makes me glad!"

Cowboy Casey's parents smiled
And hugged their little cowboy child.
They hugged his new friend Billy, too—
This thankfulness was something new.

Excerpt by Michael P. Waite from The Christian Book of Family Values by Stuart and Jill Briscoe, Chariot Victor Publishing. Used by permission. David C. Cook, Christian Education Article Service.

Listening to the Unchurched

"They have rejected the institution, not God,
and we can learn from their concerns."

One of the distinguishing characteristics of effective churches in the 21st century is that they place a high priority on reaching unchurched people and frequently invest time and energy in "asking the customer." They conduct interviews, focus groups, and surveys that ask unchurched people in their community why they are unchurched.

Mecklenburg Community Church near Charlotte, NC, was begun in October 1992. The church presently holds its three Sunday services in an elementary school until permanent facilities are secured. Of the more than 700 members, 80% were formerly unchurched and 50% became members through initial faith in Jesus Christ. Prior to the public beginning of the church, a survey of the area's unchurched population was conducted by the Barna Research Group. The survey posed a fundamental question: *Why don't you go to church?* The major results of the survey are as follows and used in *NetFax* with the permission of Dr. James Emery White, the church's senior minister.

1. "There is no value in attending." (74%) The unchurched felt like they could connect with God as easily, if not better, on the golf course as they could in a worship service. While interested in spiritual things, the unchurched do not feel that church has much to offer their spiritual pilgrimage. This verdict would be similar to McDonald's discovering that people wanted hamburgers but didn't think that McDonald's was a place to get one.

2. "Churches have too many problems." (31%) The reputation of the church among the unchurched is in shambles. It is believed that churches are inflexible, hypocritical, judgmental, and just plain mean. One man in the survey said, "I have enough problems in my life. Why would I go to church and get more?"

3. "I don't have the time." (48%) Time has replaced money as the new currency in contemporary American society. Rather than asking "how much does this cost?" people are prone to ask "how long will this take?" Sundays are, for many, the only day to "play."

4. "I'm simply not interested." (42%) A rather large number of people are simply not interested, for one reason or another, in attending church.

5. "Churches ask for money too much." (40%) Many feel that churches seem more interested in their wallets than in them as people.

6. and 7. "Church services are usually boring (36%) and irrelevant to the way I live." (34%) The verdict of the unchurched is that most services are boring and lifeless, with sermons that are irrelevant to life in the real world.

8. "I don't believe in God, or I am unsure that God exists." (12%) Many feel that the unchurched have rejected faith or God. In reality, they have rejected the church.

A Service of Leadership Network, Post Office Box 9100, Tyler, Texas 75711–9100, phone: 800–765–5323, fax: 903–561–9361, internet: http://www.leadnet.org./ Used by permission.

Clergy Appreciation

submitted by W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Denomination

Life As A Fish

The heaviness of his heart is obvious to those who know him. It is present whenever he stands beside someone with a critical illness, a wounded marriage, or when a family's children are in crisis. This heaviness invades his life when he has spent an entire night in prayer with someone who has decided to end his or her life, abort a child, or reject the Lord.

He misses sleep — many nights of it, holiday dinners, and family events in order that he can be with someone in need. Those who know him best recognize the pain and confusion on his face when he does not meet the expectations of those in the congregation, when someone says. "He just doesn't care." Who is this person? you ask. He is the pastor of a local congregation. *He may even be your pastor.*

The members of the minister's family understand that his call is a unique one. The minister knows this also. His existence is much like that of a fish in a fishbowl — everybody watches what he does and they also watch the actions of those within his family.

If the sides of the bowl, the walls of the parsonage, even his family members, could talk, they would ask that you:

Pray for your minister and allow him time alone with God.

Love him through his mistakes.

Love his family and insist he spend time with them.

Support his leadership and commit to his success.

Realize that he is your brother.

The Conditions Of The Pastor

Pastors provide services to their congregations. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious assignments in the world — the spiritual well-being of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, there is cause for great concern.

There are great expectations placed on pastors. In a 1992 survey done by *Leadership Journal*, it was found that 94 percent of pastors felt pressure to have an "ideal family." Seventy-seven percent of their spouses felt pressure to be an ideal role model of the Christian family. A 1991 survey conducted by Fuller Institute of Church Growth discovered that 80 percent of the pastors surveyed feel pastoral ministry affects their families negatively; 33 percent consider ministry to be an outright hazard to their families. It could easily be concluded that the "pedestal" (or fishbowl) is not all it is cracked up to be!



As pastors and their families try to please God, while also trying to meet the expectations of their congregations, one result is dangerous stress. Ninety percent work more than 46 hours a week; 75 percent report a significant stress-related crisis at least once in their ministry.

Then, as mentioned earlier, there is the fishbowl aspect of ministry, whereby the entire lives of pastoral families seem to be on public display. Every family matter seems to become a congregational (and/or community) issue. The anxiety can only be heightened when financial pressures come to bear, which is common since pastors typically make 20 to 30 percent less each year then their own church board members and deacons. Nearly 70 percent of pastoral spouses work outside the home, mostly due to financial need.

No one would choose to live under these conditions unless he or she felt obliged to a higher, divine direction. And yet, all too often, these are exactly the conditions under which pastoral families serve.

This material has been adapted from Clergy Appreciation Month: 1996 Planning Guide, Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO. For additional ideas, see A Wake-up Call to the Local Church: Your Pastor Is an Endangered Species, H. B. London, Jr. and Neil B. Wiseman, Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996.

Clergy Appreciation Day is October 12, 1997

This is a great time to honor your Pastor. Here are some ideas:

- Set up a leafless tree and have the members decorate it with small gifts, or envelopes with gift certificates or money.
- Receive a love offering.
- Make banners of appreciation and display them throughout the church.
- Invite a guest speaker and give your pastor the day off.
- Plan a banquet in his honor.
- Present your pastor with a card signed by as many of the members as possible along with a gift certificate for shoes, a suit, or a restaurant he enjoys.



Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

Joy In the Camp

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

"There's joy in the camp, a sinner has come home, joy in the camp rejoicing round God's throne." This is part of a song that we used during a week of camp many years ago. It now comes to my mind and describes what is taking place at Camp Vandemere. We are excited about the souls that are being saved at camp this year and the lives that are being changed. There has been rejoicing in Heaven as well as rejoicing at camp and rejoicing in the lives of the sinners that have come home.

We are having a fantastic year at Camp Vandemere. The summer is gone, but the camp is still open and groups are still coming and staying for the weekends. Some churches have been already and have made plans to come again before the weather turns cold. We have groups scheduled until early November and some possibly later than this. This is great, we started earlier than normal this year and we are utilizing the camp longer. This excites me; we should never cease to work for our Saviour. Most of the time we think of our camp by the sea (meaning of the word Vandemere) as only a summer place. I am pleased to see our camp being used more and more for the glory of the Lord. We have had churches to come and use the camp for seminars and a time of fellowship as well. Perhaps you would like to bring your church, choir, or group to the camp for some type of seminar or workshop.

I cannot tell you of all the groups, churches, as well as campers, who have visited the camp this year. I can tell you that God has blessed lives, and touched lives with his love and mercy. One such event was the Layman's League retreat the first of June. This weekend was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, hearts were touched, lives were blessed. Just recently the Eastern Conference Layman's League held their meeting here. Heaven came down and glory filled our hearts as the Rev. Greg Mills brought the message. I am still hearing reports of the great blessings that God bestowed upon the various weeks of camp.

I am pleased to announce that we now have three rooms in our family lodge available for you to use. Our manager has just finished the third room and reservations are already being made for its use. Plans are under way to finish the fourth and last room of the lodge. We have a couple of churches who are waiting for the weather to cool some and then they are planning to come down with their layman's group and do much of the work for us. We appreciate this, it gives the groups a time to work together and have Christian fellowship. Each room has two double beds, a sleeper sofa, table and chairs, microwave, private bath, as well as a small refrigerator. They are ideal for a family vacation, a weekend getaway or just a place to relax from the busy schedule we all have. I know of one couple who has reserved a room to spend their anniversary.

Our first annual "singing by the river" held at camp was a great success. Several gospel groups came donating their talents to the Lord and to the camp. The day was just perfect, the weather was made to order, not too hot or too cool, even the mosquitoes cooperated by staying away, and all who came had a great time. It was enjoyable from several points: first, there was the fellowship with other Christians; there was the enjoyment of hearing good gospel music; and the auctioning of the cakes. The cake auctioning was exciting when Christian friends begin to bid against the other with Christian love in their hearts. God was honored and the camp received a blessing from the fine donation from all who participated. Home Missions and Evangelism let us use the big tent which was set up so you could sit and look at the singers as well as look directly out over Bay River. We estimate that we had between four hundred fifty and five hundred people in attendance. Plans are already being made to have our second annual singing by the river on August 8, 1999. Mark your calendar and plan to be with us.

I want to say that our staff at the camp has done an outstanding job all year and we appreciate you. It has been hot, especially in the kitchen while cooking, but our staff kept on going. The grounds have been kept up by Mr. James Watson who has enjoyed using our tractor and mower. It makes the job easier as well as more enjoyable if you have the proper equipment. This is why we are installing a new air and heating unit in the dining hall. We plan to keep the old unit, with both our staff will keep cooler next summer.

Why not call our manager and his wife and invite them to your church to tell you about your camp. I keep hearing people say they didn't know we had a camp on the coast. Others say, "I know we have a camp, but I haven't been," or "it has been years since I went, and I know very little about it." Many remember the camp from the early years when all we had was the house and tents for the campers to stay in. Much has been done since those early years and much is being done now. We are proud of our camp and we would like to share the enthusiasm we have with you. You can help us by inviting our manager to come to your church and tell you about the camp and you can also help us by telling others about the camp.

Manager: Mr. Aldric Gaskins
Home (919) 637–4949
Camp (919) 754–3171

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

Have You Heard?

by Ralph Sumner

There are some rumors going around. Most are true. I want to set the facts straight.

Fact #1 — It is true we had a terrible storm last year and much damage was done to the property.

Fact #2 — It is true the Camp Vandemere Board of Directors, manager and his wife, rolled up their sleeves and went into action to correct the damage and to raise funds to rebuild.

Fact #3 — It is true our churches, individuals, and businesses rallied to the cause with their finances.

Fact #4 — It is true people from some of our churches came down and cleaned, built bunk beds, hung sheet rock, painted, did electrical work, plumbing, mowing, carpentry, served meals, helped with a fish fry, put up a tent for a gospel sing, took down the tent, sang, preached, and directed weeks of camp.

Fact #5 — It is true many people have *prayed* and raised funds in their churches.

Fact #6 — It is true there have been about 25 first-time decisions for Christ made this summer.

Fact #7 — It is true our manager and his wife (and family) have done an excellent job.

Fact #8 — It is true the gospel sing has been declared a real success with good attendance and offerings. (Plans are already being made for next year.)

Fact #9 — It is true we are extending our heart-felt thanks to everyone who had a hand in making these facts true.

Fact #10 — It is true, we cannot let up now. Please continue your prayerful support and be proud of what the Lord has done through you for Camp Vandemere.

These are the facts as I see them. I am so happy that I have had a part in this great work of the Lord.

Layman's League

Attention All Churches

There will be a Fall Singspiration at King's Cross Roads Original Free Will Baptist Church on October 25, 1997, begining at 7:00 PM. This event is being sponsored by the Central Conference Layman's League. We would like for each church to participate in the singing. We are praying that each church will send someone to sing at the great event. If you would like to participate, please contact one of the following: Elmer Harrell, 747–2894; Rex Wainwright, 756–5032 or 756–2150; Paul Beaman, 753–4263; the Rev. Bruce Jones, 746–6293.

We hope to see you on October 25 at King's Cross Roads.

Central Conference Meeting

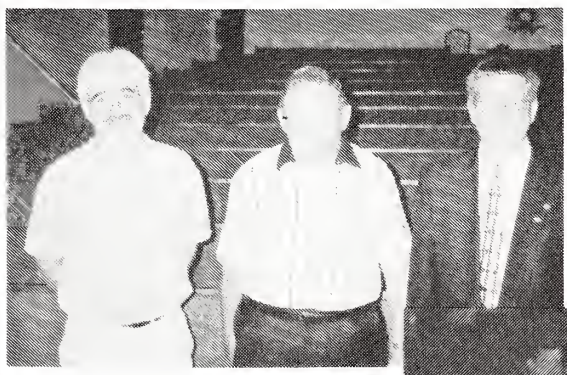
The Central Conference Layman's League met on September 8, 1997, at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC. The men, including pastors and laymen, met in the fellowship hall and enjoyed a delicious meal which included barbeque pork and chicken.

The worship service and business meeting began at 7:45. The devotional message was delivered by Brad Williamson, associate pastor at the Greenville church.

During the business session, a challenge was presented by the Rev. Bruce Jones to the Central Layman's Leagues to raise $2400.00 to complete the placing of shingles on one of the dorms at Cragmont Assembly. Within a few minutes, the money was raised, with donations coming from the different Layman's Leagues and individuals.

Dates to Remember

October 2	Promotional Committee, Convention Headquarters, 7:30 PM
October 25	Central Conference Singspiration, King's Cross Roads, 7:00 PM
November 6	Layman's League Exeuctive Board, Convention Headquarters, 7:30 PM
November 7	State Layman's League Convention, Friendship Church (near Farmville, NC) Meal — 7:00 PM and Business — 7:45 PM
November 17	Eastern Conference Layman's League, Juniper Chapel Church, 7:00 PM



Central Conference Layman's League Officers. Left to right: Jimmy Tripp, Secretary-Treasurer; Harold Humbles, Vice-President; and Mike Powell, President. (Pictured above.)

Pastors who attended the Central Conference Layman's League. (Pictured below.)



MINISTER'S PROGRAM

Why the Minister's Program?

by Don Fader, Director

When the Convention brought the Minister's Program into existence during the first part of this century, it was given a mandate to help provide for the needy, retired, and infirm minister. This came along about the time the depression was upon us and that period of our history made us acutely aware that there was no such thing as a safety net for individuals who lacked the resources to provide for themselves.

It is no surprise that ministers found themselves in this category, and even when the Social Security Act came into being, ministers were specifically excluded from the benefits provided under this program. It was not until the 1950s that ministers were even allowed to participate in this government program.

When a church does not provide adequate compensation, how can they expect first rate leadership?

It is time to raise the standard because there is no substitute for quality leadership. When God calls the best and brightest among us to the ministry we must show that individual that the pastorate is a viable choice of answering that call.

At the beginning the Program sought to provide a stipend for the retired ministers in the Convention. This was not unlike the Social Security Program which instituted a pay-as-you-go program whereby the present working generation actually provides the benefits for those who are presently retired. The principle difference is that, unlike the federal government, the Convention does not have the authority to mandate contributions, and due to the lack of voluntary contributions we were unable to provide a meaningful benefit for the many deserving ministers who needed assistance. This caused us to reexamine our effectiveness and how best to provide for the ministers in the Convention.

At this point it is important to note that providing for a pastor should not be the task of a central board or governing authority. The responsibility of providing for the needs of the pastor rest squarely upon the shoulders of the local church, and the Minister's Program has evolved into an extension of the local church in helping them provide what they cannot provide themselves. Providing a top flight retirement program, a partnership in health benefits, compensation and tax planning are part of what we do.

In addition to this we also provide hardship grants for ministers in need, and through your generosity each Christmas ministers 70 and over receive a $100 gift from you, the churches of the Convention. Also, we have supplemented the retirement benefits of all ministers who retired under the old program, many of whom have outlived their benefits but still receive a monthly gift. Again, this is because of your faithful support.

We have tried to educate the church to the unique needs of their pastors so that together they can work out a plan that will be fair and equitable to all those concerned. During the past, some churches, in the name of good stewardship, have approached pastoral compensation with the notion that less is better. After all, if we can save in this area of the budget the church will be better off, right? Not necessarily! We have yet to assess the damage that this approach has cost us as a Convention. Is cheaper always better? Of course not. If you need an operation, do you shop for a surgeon on the basis of cost or reputation?

When a church does not provide adequate compensation, how can they expect first rate leadership? We have all heard it said that "God will provide for them," and this is true, but what we sometimes fail to see is that the local church is the conduit of this provision. If not the local church, then who?

Cont. on next page

Remember October is Minister's Program Month

MINISTER'S PROGRAM

Why the Minister's Program?...

We have poured money into the buildings and physical facilities, yet we fail to achieve the growth that will assure a healthy church tomorrow. It is time to raise the standard because there is no substitute for quality leadership. When God calls the best and brightest among us to the ministry we must show that individual that the pastorate is a viable choice of answering that call.

The Minister's Program sounded an alarm in the 1980s, pointing out that the average age of our ministers was increasing due to the lack of younger men entering the pastoral ministry. This trend has yet to be reversed and we are rapidly approaching the next millennium. This Program has evolved over the years as an educational resource helping churches and ministers as they plan together, and we will continue to serve the Convention in this capacity. Your support, through prayers and gifts, to the ministry will allow us to help you and those who God has called to serve.

October is Minister's Program Month and we would like to ask you to receive a special offering for the program and/or include this Program in your annual budget. Please consider the following challenge for your church:

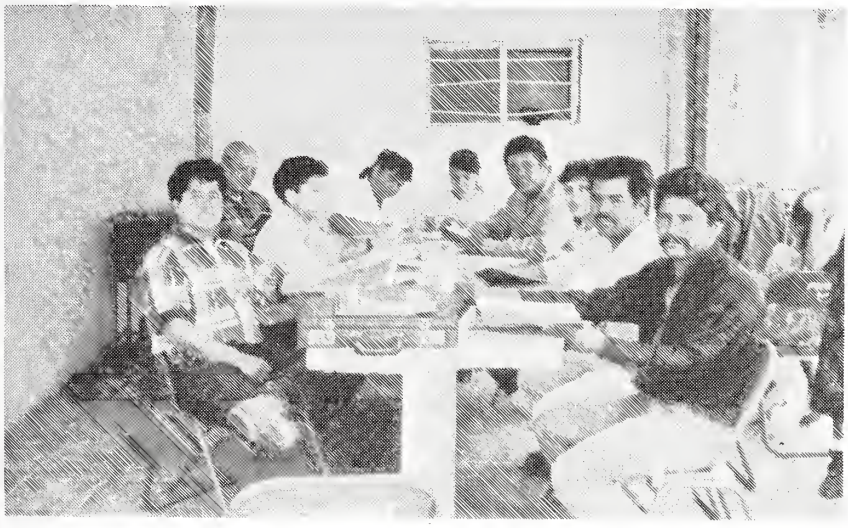
Membership	Gift Challenge
Less than 100	$150.00
100–149	$250.00
150–199	$350.00
Over 200	$450.00

For more information please contact:
The Rev. Don Fader
The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program
Box 39 Ayden, NC 28513

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Worker's Training Program

Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, *by Antonio Escobar*



Paul said to Timothy: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). For a long time we have been praying that the Lord would lift up new shepherds for the ministry. We thank the Lord for answering our request. Many brethren from the churches have expressed their desire to prepare themselves to serve in the ministry. The program to prepare ministers was begun in the Emanuel Free Will Baptist Church, located in the city of Piedras Negras. The program has been extended to include the city of Nueva Rosita as well as the large city of Saltillo, Coahuila.

The group of students in the city of Saltillo began their studies on June 8, 1997. This ministerial program began with six students: three men and three women. The men are studying for the ministry, while the women are studying about how to work in the church. The men will finish their first trimester soon and in their examinations have demonstrated a good grasp of the Word of God. One of the students, Erasmo Rangel, has opened a mission and is working quite diligently, and the mission is growing. He already has a group of 35 children and three families who also share with him in the work. At the same time, brothers Ezequiel and Saul are helping in directing the worship services as well as with preaching.

The rest of the brethren participate in the different departments of the church. Our prayer is that from the group of students the majority will become preachers. We ask your prayers for this program and all those who begin will be able to complete their studies.

News Letter from India and Nepal

by E. M. Lall

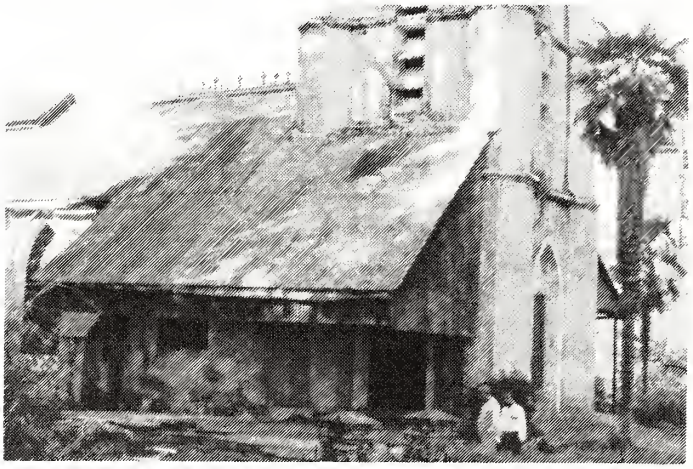
The month of June was very hectic firing and of constant mental drab for various reasons over which the success was on our part. It was awfully hot with the temperature up to 46° Celsius (114.8° F) so that the earth was near burning point. Yet, we enjoyed the ministry from place to place and were encouraged with the potential result. This has given a boost and enthusiasm to our people for ensuing opportunities under this program.

In our country the larger denominational churches are in a mess and dying. They had huge church properties which they have already sold, and for big sanctuaries they are counting days when they become dilapidated, enabling them to sell. Evangelization has become a dead activity to them and consequently the wrath of God is hovering upon their heads. Things vary from leader to leader. Some good leaders of the church of North India, formerly called the Church of England, contacted us, considering ours a living and witnessing church at this time to hand over some of their properties for church use on a throw away premium to satisfy procedure incumbent legally through their Liaison Officer, Mr. Prince Solanki. We have inspected the buildings and are examining the prospect of constituting Free Will Baptist congregations at both places before we undertake the deal.

In view of some unprecedented communal disharmonies usurped in the country, leaders of various denominations of nearby districts of Bareilly selected venue at our church to hold discussions for mutual amity, making me the chairperson.

The reorganization of the church work in Nepal has brought effective progress in relation to congregational work. Rev. Kainey, another minister of our church in Nepal, was needing a bicycle which has been provided to him by the congregation of Bareilly church. Our Board of Foreign Missions has already helped the church in Nepal in erecting two chapels. The work is in progress.

We need your fervent prayers for us to be more effective in the field in the prevailing desperate situation as it is emerging day by day.



Property offered by the Church of North India.



Denominational leaders.



Szam Simon Kainey minster in Nepal has been given a bicycle by Bareilly congrations.



The site of the Chapel in Nepal

People Out of Place
A Call To Missionary Service

by Rev. Pio dela Rosa

In general, all things have their proper places; when a thing is out of place, it becomes useless. Instead of becoming a blessing, it becomes a nuisance and dangerous. Fire in the stove is useful, but the same fire in your closet spells danger.

Christians can be out of place, they can be called to carry out one function, but in fact are struggling with another.

The Bible is replete with illustrations of people who are out of place. In the Book of Judges, Chapter 6:1–2, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. For seven years He gave them into the hands of Midianites, because the power of Midian was so oppressive. The Israelites prepared shelter for themselves in mountain clefts, caves, and strongholds.

What a sad story! They were God's chosen people who had been given an inheritance. Designed to live like princes, they were living in dens and mountain caves instead, simply because they had forgotten that their inheritance depended upon their relationship with God.

The story of Jonah is one of the well-known Bible stories. Jonah reminds us of modern-day missionaries who miss God's chosen place of ministry. They are missionaries all right, but they are in the wrong place.



I don't know exactly where you are at this time, but does this sound familiar to you? Is this your present experience? Out of place? You are settling for the caves of worldly life. You're in your boat of comfort, but you are sailing away from God, away from His call to service.

Deep in your heart you know that you have a place in the missionary enterprise, but you keep putting it off. How long can you endure to be out of the place God has chosen for you?

Short-Term Team Opportunity 1998 (Serve Them Teams)

There are several places open on the teams to the Philippines next April 17–May 3 and also on the June 13–23 and July 11–21 teams to Mexico. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to be involved in a cross-cultural ministry that will truly bless those you serve and at the same time bring rich, life-changing blessings into your life.

Please call or write the Board of Foreign Missions for more information: PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, (919) 746–4963.

"The People Place"

I lift my eyes unto
the hills to a place,
The people Place
People congregate
People pray
People sing
People learn
People discern,
decide, devote,
disciple, discover
in this place
A refuge, sanctuary
there is no escaping
God's presence
in this place
Where does my
help come from?
From the God who
meets me in this place



The above was written by David Ealy. David came to work with us while he was a student at Mount Olive College. After graduating from MOC he lived and worked at Cragmont while pursuing another degree in graphic design. On Monday, September 2, David left to attend Union Theological Seminary. Thanks David for all the hard work.

Cragmont Board of Directors

Donald Coates (Chair),
Gary Bailey (Vice-Chair),
Grace Barbour (Secretary),
Mike Barnhill, , Carol Davis,
Harry Grubbs, Nancy Hardee,
Sharlene Howell, Lloyd Jones,
Velma Morris, Jimmy Stocks,
and Cheryl Williams

Community

Since 1945 the community of Original Free Will Baptists has funded and operated a ministry called Cragmont in the mountains of North Carolina. Through these years those making first time decisions have numbered in the thousands. The numbers of those who have made commitments to full-time Christian ministry and the numbers of those who have committed themselves more fully to the Christian faith is unknown.

What takes place at Cragmont during the conferences and retreats, without anyone even realizing it, is community. When one attends a conference or retreat they feel important and a part of a group. They are part of a group that worships God together through the hearing of the word and through song. They are a part of a group that eventually bonds together through this worship and fellowship so much so that parting is painful. One can get a vivid picture of this bonding on Saturday as you watch the hugs exchanged and the tears flowing just before the bus turns out of the driveway.

The Rev. Raymon T. Sasser supplied the words which have been used as the abbreviated purpose of Cragmont's existence. *Inspiration, Instruction, and Recreation.* Inspiration — the gospel is proclaimed through preaching and songs. Many are inspired to make Christ a part of their lives through worship. Instruction — the Bible is taught with the hope that the individual will know how to live the Christian life. Recreation — young people need to know that clean recreation is important and acceptable in the Christian life. Cragmont is a ministry that God is using to reach lives for His Kingdom.



The climb begins!

Invest in Ministry

by John Williams, Manager

As the leader of our denomination's camping and conference ministry, I have the responsibility to help develop a vision for the future of Cragmont. My dreams for the future are big dreams. These dreams are about what God could do through the camp's outreach. These dreams come from the heart of someone who wants to see this ministry touch the lives of as many people as possible. Most of all these dreams will involve capital and operational investments if they are to be realized. For that reason there has been some reluctance on my part to share them with you. However, I have resolved not to be shy in the future. My dream list assumes that God has the financial resources available for them to become a reality. God is not short on money. We are not only investing money in buildings and grounds but in the lives that God touches through this ministry.

Dreams

Athletic Complex
Larger dining & kitchen
More dorms
Larger Chapel
Full time program director
Full time fundraiser & development person
Full time staff to meet the needs of our guests.



Theres always fun at Cragmont.

1997 Accomplishments

- Over 1100 in Summer Conferences
- 284 Club Members
- 33 New Professions of Faith
- 430 Skiers
- 108 After Jubilee Pledges
- Entry Decks to Dorms
- Rear Entry Deck to Dining Hall
- Floyd House Deck

Byrd tells Class of 2001:
Ability to access learning is key



Dr. J. William Byrd
President of
Mount Olive College

Last May's new crop of high school graduates has new respect for the meaning of the word *commencement*. With one week of class under their belts, *beginning again* suddenly is clear.

The Class of 2001 at Mount Olive College was welcomed officially into the college community with pomp and ceremony at its fall convocation on Tuesday in College Hall. Dr. J. William Byrd, college president, delivered the convocation address and Dr. Barbara R. Kornegay, vice president for enrollment, challenged the college's newest students.

Byrd encouraged freshman and new transfer students to think "outside the box" — to be original and bold thinkers. Citing great minds who changed ideas and concepts that changed the world as people think of it, Byrd spoke of Richard Feynman, Marcel Proust, Albert Einstein, and Jesus for introducing ideas and concepts that changed people's perspective and behavior.

He also told students that the tools for their education rested in their hands.

"The Information Age has been spawned by an eruption in technology that has brought tremendous powers to the finger tips of virtually everyone," Byrd said. "However, we must reach out and grasp it."

In an information age, the statement that knowledge is power is more profound that ever, he said. Some will embrace the challenge, while others will find it daunting.

Byrd told the audience of faculty, staff, and students gathered in College Hall that now is "a great time to be a student."

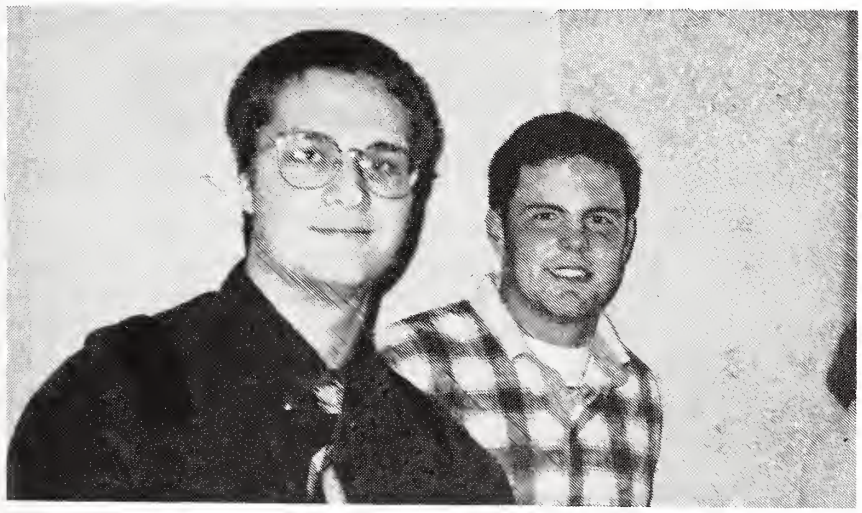
He spoke of the high priority placed on education in government at federal and state levels as well as in business and industry for worker preparedness. He described innovation in curriculum, scheduling, and technology making education more accessible to more students than ever before. And he told of efforts to contain the high cost of education, pointing to recent increases in tax credits for students as well as generous federal, state, and institution grant and loan programs.

"I challenge you to finish what you started this year, in the time you need to get the job done," Dr. Kornegay told newcomers.

Among many challenges facing students, Kornegay advised them to become acquainted with the faculty, staff, facilities, the library, the playing fields, and all resources available through the college for one purpose — to support them.

She warned students not to succumb to the traps and myths of newly acquired freedoms and encouraged them to take responsibility for their own happiness and fulfillment.

Other principals participating in the convocation were: Mr. Gary F. Barefoot, faculty marshal; the Rev. Frank R. Harrison, campus minister; Mr. S. Ernie Taylor, president of the college's Student Government Association; Dr. Opey D. Jeanes, vice president for special services; Dr. George D. Thigpen, director of Mount Olive College at New Bern; soloist, Ms. Irene Weldon, and pianist, Mr. Mark Gourley.



New freshmen Garrett Southerland from Westside FWB Church, Kinston, and Lee Buck from Tarboro First FWB Church enter College Hall to be officially welcomed during the 1997 Fall Convocation.

Mount Olive College Singers Celebrate 25th

They're back...for the 25th time! The Mount Olive College Singers recently began their twenty-fifth season.

With 24 years as director under her belt, Mrs. Irene Patten has prepared the Singers for their 50 or more performances this school year.

Consisting of six men, six women, and a sound technician — all students — the group is widely known in the region for its meticulously choreographed song and dance shows of popular, patriotic, and Broadway music. The Singers perform at public events, festivals, civic clubs, church dinners, and high schools.

Being a singer is competitive. Students must interview and audition to satisfy Patten's strict standards for talent and a wholesome look. A $25,000 gift from BB&T enables the college to award scholarships to singers.

"We are extremely grateful to BB&T for supporting the Mount Olive College Singers in recent years," said college president Dr. J. William Byrd. "The college and BB&T reap intangible benefits from the good will generated every time our singers perform."

Patten said that show choirs were at West Coast phenomenon a quarter century ago. The Mount Olive College Singers were among the first, if not the first, show choir in the East.

For the last 24 years, Patten and the Singers have been singing and dancing from New York to Florida and everywhere in-between for youth groups and presidents.

This year the Singers will build a program around a "Moments to Remember" theme, pulling audience favorites from the repertoires of 24 previous seasons.

The first performance this season was for the Wayne County Retired Teachers' Association at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Officers' Club on September 16. As in past years, the Singers are scheduled to perform at 10 FWB county dinners for the College.

Another vocal ensemble — "Free Spirit" — will perform at seven of the dinners.

Performing for the Mount Olive College Singers this year are: Dwayne S. Bevell, Jonathan Claris, Jason Cox, Rebecca G. Fordham, Steve Hamilton, Shelton Hardy Jr., Penny A. Mitchell, J. Lee Honeycutt II, Heather J. Shirley, R. Garrett Southerland, Melissa S. Taylor, Donna Whitley, and Sharon A. Zirkle.

During October at Mount Olive

Monday, October 6	**Music in the Chapel, Rodgers Chapel, 7:30 PM**
Monday, October 13	**Dedication of new soccer field and Trojan Booster Club Pig Pickin', 6:00 PM**
Tuesday, October 14	**String Recital, Rodgers Chapel, 7:30 PM**
October 22–27	**Fall Break**

New Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Vincent W. Beach is the College's new Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has been here since August 4. He came to Mount Olive from Mount Senario College in northwestern Wisconsin where he was Dean of Outreach and External Affairs. He is originally from Colorado, but claims a great-grandfather who lived in the town of Lenoir, NC. Dr. Beach was raised as an American Baptist. He and his wife, Cynthia, have three children in elementary school, grades 1, 4, and 8. The next time you are on campus, take the time to meet and welcome Dr. and Mrs. Beach.



Dr. Vincent W. Beach is the newly appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs at Mount Olive College.

Reminder

Pickle Classic and Reunions November 21–23

Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, and a committee are working hard to deliver a "five star" alumni weekend November 21–23. The weekend features class and club reunions, sports, and college update by the president, a ground-breaking, and other events.

If you were ever a Mount Olive College student, mark November 21–23 on your calendar and make plans to attend! Watch for details in the next issue.

College Dinners for 1997 Begin in October

Through a series of 17 dinners in eastern North Carolina, Free Will Baptists and friends of Mount Olive College are encouraged to invest in the work of the College. Gifts through the dinners last year totaled $352,194.00; our goal this year is $365,000.00. The dinners provide an opportunity for the College to express its appreciation to those who give to support the ministry of Christian higher education and for Free Will Baptists to learn first-hand about the work of their College. All friends of the College are encouraged to attend the dinner in their area. Full information is available from Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support (Telephone: Office 919–658–2502, Home: 919–735–6013).

Dinner Schedule

Lenoir County, Saturday, October 4, 7:00 PM, Kinston High School, Kinston, Jeff Daughtry, Chairperson, Goal: $22,300.

Jones County, Monday, October 6, 7:00 PM, Pilgrim's Home Free Will Baptist Church, Dover, Mildred Jenkins, Chairperson, Goal: $5,000.

Edgecombe County, Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 PM, First Free Will Baptist Church of Tarboro, Luther Bissette, Chairperson, Goal: $6,050.

Onslow-Brunswick Counties, Thursday, October 9, 7:00 PM, Folkstone Free Will Baptist Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chairperson, Goal: $3,600.

Beaufort County, Saturday, October 11, 7:00 PM, Beaufort County Community College, Washington, Billy Gurkin, Chairperson, Goal: $12,525.

Greene County, Monday, October 13, 7:00 PM, Greene County Middle School near Snow Hill, Randy Beaman and Genevieve M. Taylor, Co-Chairpersons, Goal: $24,250.

Nash County, Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 PM, Whitley Center, Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chairperson, Goal: $10,100.

Pamlico County, Saturday, October 18, 6:00 PM, Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, Debbie Whorton and Judy Thaanum, Co-Chairpersons, Goal: $8,550.

Wayne County, Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Joyce Edmundson, Chairperson, Goal: $57,650.

Duplin County, Saturday, November 1, 6:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Tommy Benson, Chairperson, Goal: $13, 775.

Johnston-Wake Counties, Monday, November 3, 7:00 PM, Spiritual Life Building, Everett Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, LaVern Carter, Chairperson, Goal: $47,300.

Craven County, Tuesday, November 4, 7:00 PM, West Craven Middle School near New Bern, Roy Wetherington, Chairperson, Goal: $18,225.

Carteret County, Saturday, November 8, 6:00 PM, West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Sheri S. Noonan and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chairpersons, Goal: $15,600.

Washington, Martin, Tyrrell, and Pasquotank Counties, Thursday, November 13, 7:30 PM, Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Plymouth, David Cahoon, Chairperson, Goal: $14,300.

Wilson County, Monday, November 17, 7:00 PM, Beddington High School near Wilson, Betty Batts and Richard Holmes, Co-Chairpersons, Goal: $37,550.

Pitt County, Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 PM, J. H. Rose High School, Greenville, Jane T. Tripp, Chairperson, Goal: $32,400.

Sampson, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties, Thursday, November 20, 7:00 PM, Clinton-Sampson Agri-Civic Center, Clinton, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chairperson, Goal: $35,825.

1997 Dinner Goal Total: $365,000.



October

SUN	MON	TUE	
28	**29**	**30**	**1**
5	**6** 7:00 PM MOC Dinner Jones County 7:30 PM Music in the Chapel, Mount Olive College, Rodgers Chapel	**7** 7:00 PM MOC Dinner Edgecombe County	**8**
12 *Clergy Appreciation Day*	**13** 6:00 PM Dedication of New Soccer Field, Mount Olive College 7:00 PM MOC Dinner Greene County *Columbus Day (Observed)*	**14** 7:00 PM MOC Dinner Nash County 7:30 PM String Recital, Rodgers Chapel, Mount Olive College	**15**
19	**20**	**21**	**22**
26 *Daylight Savings* *set back 1 hour*	**27**	**28** 7:00 PM MOC Diner Wayne County	**29**

Mount Olive College Fall Break

cerns _____

Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
n Auxiliary (Kenly)	**2** 7:00 PM Layman's League Executive Board	**3**	**4** Pee Dee Auxiliary (Cypress Creek) 7:00 PM MOC Dinner Lenior County
Conference i's Chapel) r Auxiliary ant Grove)	**9** Albemarle Auxiliary (Free Union) 7:00 PM MOC Dinner Onslow & Brunswick Counties	**10**	**11** 7:00 PM MOC Dinner Beaufort County
	16 Western Conference (Little Rock)	**17**	**18** Piedmont Auxiliary Pee Dee Association (Pireway) 7:00 PM MOC Diner Pamlico County
	23 Eastern Conference (Western)	**24**	**25** 7:00 PM Layman's League Central Conference Singspiration, Kings Cross Roads
	Mount Olive College Fall Break		
	30	**31**	**1** **November is Children's Home Month**

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

All - 4 - Him Goes to Old Canoe Creek

by Cathy Wallace Crumpler, Advisor for All - 4- Him

On July 24, All - 4 - Him Creative Ministries returned to St. Cloud, Florida as a part of the Touching Lives Corps. All - 4 - Him first went to the Old Canoe Creek Mission/Church in 1995. Since then they have desired to return to continue work at the mission. Members of the group who returned are Marci Rollins, Karen Powell and Timothy Howell of Goldsboro First Church, Sarah Cannon of Jackson Heights Church, Josh Whitfield of Root y Branch Church, Christie Hill, Garrett Southerland and Mickey Hill of Westside Church, Sarah Crumpler of Sarecta Church and their chaperones and leaders Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hill of Westside Church, Sharlene Howell of Goldsboro Church, and the Rev. and Mrs. Joe Crumpler of Sarecta Church.

Friday, while at the church, they did some "spring" cleaning. They cleaned and replaced fluorescent lights in the Sunday school rooms and sanctuary. They washed windows and mirrors. The men relocated the sound system. Furniture was cleaned and floors were vacuumed. The group was eager and cheerful during their working.

On Saturday All - 4 - Him led Bible school for the church. Their theme was Bible heroes. Students studied Noah, David, Stephen, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Sharlene Howell served as director. Classes also included music and crafts. They young people of All - 4 - Him were well prepared and did a beautiful job. Following Bible school, All - 4 - Him hosted a weiner roast for the participants and parents. To close Bible school, certificates were given out and All-4-Him presented a program of music, puppetry, Christian clowning and mime. It was a blessing to see old friends at the church since our first visit.

Sunday morning All - 4 - Him performed during the Sunday school hour. Following Sunday school they presented the special music during morning worship service, led by the director/pastor Aubrey Williamson. The church family had a covered-dish lunch for the group and made us feel very welcome.

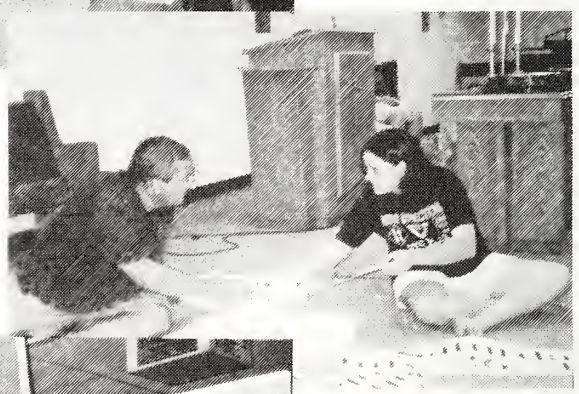
After church we left St. Cloud to return to duties at home in North Carolina. We were richly blessed during our stay by the hospitality of the church family and especially the numerous kindness and consideration of Aubrey and Carla Williams and their sons. We were well pleased to see the growth and improvements of the church and how God's Spirit is working in St. Cloud at Old Canoe Creek Church. We are thankful for the opportunity we've had to serve there. I personally thank God for this ministry through Home Missions and the Christian spirit of the dedicated teenagers, of All - 4- Him, who love the Lord and love to serve Him by serving people.





Pictured above.Garret Southerland and Karen Powell teach about Noah — Theme: Bible Heroes.

All - 4- Him performs during Bible School. Garrett Southerland and Bryan Williams pictured above.





Pictured above.Sarah Crumpler and Pastor Aubrey Williamson prepared signs for Vacation Bible School at Old Canoe Creek Church.

Josh Whitfield and the Rev. Joe Crumpler replace bulbs at Old Canoe Creek Church.

Children's Home Begins Accreditation Process



Application for accreditation has been made and accepted by the Council of Accreditation of Services for Families and Children for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The timetable for the completion of the accreditation process is July, 1998. The Home will be involved in a self-study that will be evaluated by a team from the Council of Accreditation to determine if the standards of our programs meet the qualifications necessary for approval of accreditation. The study will involve all aspects and facets of the Children's Home including the Emergency Shelter located in Wilson, North Carolina.

The Council on Accreditation is an international organization that accredits health care and social services programs in the United States and Canada. Their goal is to strengthen and promote the quality of social and mental health services that support and improve the lives of families and children and the well-being of society.

Accreditation will provide benefits for the Children's Home. It will identify our ministry as providing programs that are of high quality and professional standards. This helps to ensure worthiness of public and private funding support; protects against pressures to lower our standards; demonstrates accountability in management of resources; builds staff morale and increases program effectiveness.

This process will require much work, reflection, and evaluation on the part of all staff members of the Children's Home. As we endeavor to evaluate and improve the quality of our programs to children, we seek your prayers and support that our efforts will be successful in meeting accreditation standards.



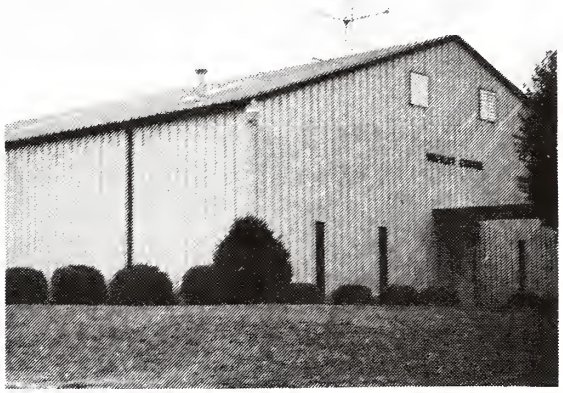
Back to School food and fun with the Wilson Exchange Club.

Youth Convention Project

The Youth Convention has chosen the Free Will Baptist Children's Home as their project for this year. The project will contribute funds to help with the expense of air conditioning Whitley Center.

Whitley Center is a multipurpose building that is used for recreational activities and for gatherings such as our Friends of Children Day, Homecoming, Mount Olive College dinners, etc. During the hot summer months, use of the building will be more feasible with a cooling system.

Wishes for success and expressions of gratitude are extended to our youth across the state as you work throughout the coming year to turn your visions into realities.



Whitley Center

Friends of Children Appreciation Day

November 22, 1997
12:00 NOON
Whitley Center
Free Will Baptist Children's Home
Keynote Speaker: **The Reverend Doug Skinner**
Music Provided by: **Covenant**

FWB PRESS

Subscription Campaign

On September 17, 1997, during the first day's session of the Convention, convening at Mount Olive College, a subscription campaign, "*The Free Will Baptist* in Every Free Will Baptist Home" was announced. At that time each church was asked to pick up pamphlets from the Free Will Baptist Press display concerning the campaign. Those churches that did not do so received their copies in the mail.

This subscription campaign gives each church or church organization an excellent opportunity to earn money while serving the denomination as well. It may be that a Sunday school class, youth group, etc., may choose to sponsor the campaign.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

ORGAN OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume — No. Ayden, North Carolina

— *The Plan* —

- New Subscriptions Only.
- Each church selects a Campaign Director, and/or a campaign committee.
- Subscriptions are received at the regular subscription price of:

NC Resident	1 year (12 issues) $10.07 2 years (24 issues) $18.55 4 years (48 issues) $36.04	Out of State	1 year (12 issues) $9.50 2 years (24 issues) $17.50 4 years (48 issues) $34.00

- The church or church group such as a Sunday school class, Woman's Auxiliary, youth group, etc., will retain 20% of the total price of subscriptions. The balance is forwarded to the Free Will Baptist Press, along with the subscription form for each new subscriber.
- New subscribers will be listed in *The Free Will Baptist*.
- The list of participating churches will be printed in *The Free Will Baptist*.
- The church with the most new subscribers will receive special recognition.

For additional information contact:
Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
The Free Will Baptist Press
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513–0159
Phone: 919–746–6128

Good Neighbors

By Bob Mayes
News-Argus Staff Writer
Reprinted by premission.

"The wedding ladies" make special days even more special for close friends, family and members of the church.

Rarely had the Northeast Original Free Will Baptist Church, Mount Olive, NC, ever looked more splendiferous than it did for the wedding of Sue Davenport and Dennis Turner March 8.

The flowers were something to behold, the centerpieces and tablecloths in the reception hall were never better and the three-tiered wedding cake looked almost too good to eat.

A casual observer might have thought that whoever was paying for the wedding had handed the decorator and caterer a blank check.

Not the case — it was simply the work of Ann Weaver and Merdie Best, called by some of their friends and fellow church-goers "the wedding ladies." This time they'd outdone themselves, but it hadn't cost the bride and groom a cent.

Fact is, Mrs. Best and Mrs. Weaver never accept payment — not for the flowers, the bows or even the cakes. For the Davenport-Turner wedding, Mrs. Best baked a cake large enough for more than 200. Free.

"You never lose nothing by doing something good for someone," says Mrs. Best, who works in maintenance at R.G. Barry. "When I walk away, I feel good — really good."

Mrs. Best and Mrs. Weaver have been doing not only weddings, but "occasions" — banquets, graduations, Christmas parties, etc. — together for more than a decade. The pair will do cakes, decorations, flower arrangements, whatever the need for family, close friends and members of the church.



Merdie Best, left, and Ann Weaver work on a flower arrangement.

Cakes are Mrs. Best's specialty. Bows are Mrs. Weaver's area of expertise. They both excel at decorations and flower arrangements, but they work together in all areas.

There isn't a standard package for weddings or parties. They try to make each one different, each one special.

"Things have really changed since the first wedding," says Mrs. Weaver, an agency producer at Spence Insurance. "You've got different styles now, and you don't want to do the same thing for every wedding."

"When you have so many weddings in the same place, with mostly the same people coming to them, you want to make them different so that each one will be special to the couple."

All this came about when Mrs. Best, who heads the decorations committee at their church, asked Mrs. Weaver for help on a project. One project led to two and pretty soon they were a team.

Usually it's the mother of the bride who approaches Mrs. Best or Mrs. Weaver. Sometimes they ask for advice, sometimes they ask them to handle part of the arrangements, sometimes they have six months notice, sometimes six weeks.

After accepting an assignment — neither can ever remember turning anyone down — Mrs. Best and Mrs. Weaver talk things out. Certain things, such as cakes or bows, can be done separately and other things cannot. If there is the rare disagreement, it's worked out amicably.

"Ann will tell you, if I don't like it, I'll change it," Mrs. Best says with a smile, as she works on a flower arrangement. "Ask her. She'll tell you."

Mrs. Weaver, working on the other side of the arrangement nods in agreement.

"Absolutely," she says. "But we rarely disagree. We've been doing this together for a long time and we're pretty much in agreement on what we like."

And what they like appears to appeal to their family, friends, and fellow church members.

"This is supposed to be one of the happiest times of their lives," says Mrs. Weaver. "It's just a pleasure to see the bride and groom pleased."

News from Holly Springs

Penny Drive Nets $1,345.68 for India Church Project

A penny contest between the boys and girls attending Vacation Bible School at Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, July 14–18, netted $1,345.68 for the church's "Build One For Them" project. The church is working to raise money to build a church parsonage, and school in the city of Agra.



Pictured left to right are Marcus Conner (son of Pastor Ray Conner), Susan Davis, Ginny Conner (wife of Pastor Ray Conner and Bible School Director), and Frances VanPatten (Church Treasurer). The group is shown at the front door of the bank where the pennies were taken in a wheelbarrow.

100 Chairs Donated

Holly Springs Ladies Auxiliary donated 100 chairs to Camp Vandemere. Shown are church members sitting in the chairs at the First Annual "Singing by the River" held on August 9.

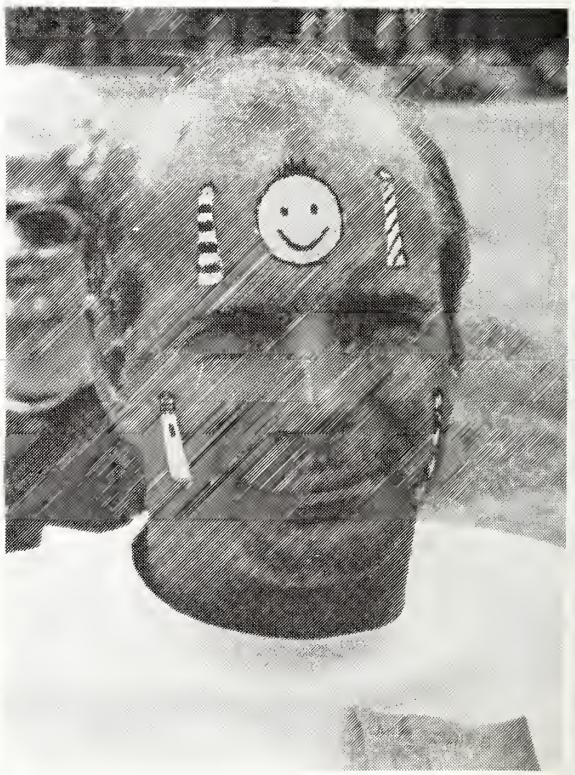


From left to right are Peggy Horrell, Ginny Conner, Janet Garner, Lois Bryan, Frances VanPatten, Reta Cannon, Angela Garner, Mary Gurganus, Susan Davis, and Ray Conner (Pastor).

Holly Springs Enjoys Camp Vandemere's "Singing by the River"



Ginny Conner (wife of Pastor Ray Conner) is shown painting her mother's face (Julianne Gaskins). Looking on is Joan Mills.



Although his name tag read "Camp Slave," David VanPatten earned a new nickname, "Lighthouse" at Camp Vandemere "Singing by the River."

Wingate Hansley Celebrates 50 Years of Ordination

On Sunday, July 23, 1997, the Kenly Free Will Baptist Church was privileged to host the "Celebration of Fifty Years of Ordination" of the Rev. Wingate A. Hansley. He was ordained July 14, 1997, at Sherron Acres Free Will Baptist Church, Durham, NC.

Reverend Hansley's favorite Scripture was Proverbs 3:5–6.

The service began with a welcome by Mr. Robert Currie of Durham.

Pastor James Joyner gave the opening prayer and told some things he remembered about Mr. Hansley.

Mr. Robert Currie told about the early beginnings of Mr. Hansley's ministry and his courtship and marriage to Miss Edith Kirby.

Mr. Pullen Sealy told about his ordination, pastorates, and place of services. These included:

Good Hope, Henderson, TX
Hillsboro, Hillsboro, NC
Kenly, Kenly, NC
Selma, Selma, NC
Middlesex Memorial Chapel, Middlesex, NC
Assistant Superintendent Free Will Baptist Children's Home
Edwards Chapel, Merrimon, NC
Mt. Pleasant, Newport, NC
Pearsalls Chapel, Kenansville, NC
Promoting Home Missions, NC State Mission Board
Unity, Jacksonville, NC
First Original, Wilmington, NC
Johnston Union, Smithfield, NC
West Calvary, Smithfield, NC
First Church, Ocala, FL
Friendship, Wilmington, NC
Cardinal Village, Jacksonville, NC
Victory, Leland, NC

Speakers representing his pastorates were Mr. Charles Hinnant from the Kenly church; Mr. Tom Hinnant, Selma Church; Mr. J. K. Kornegay, First Original, Ocala, FL; Mr. Jackie Patter, Friendship Church, Wilmington; Mr. Charles Beasley, Cardinal Village Church, Jacksonville; and Mr. Jackie Patter, Victory Church, Leland.

Others in the congregation made congratulatory comments to the Rev. Hansly. Brother Hansley expressed his thanks to everyone for coming and for his celebration.

Mr. Luther Hansley, son of the Reverend Wingate, who is a missionary to Hatti, introduced the other members of the family and asked them to join him on the rostrum. He also introduced Mr. Danny Thomas from Harvest International in Ocala, FL who also spoke.

Included in the celebration were visitors from the Virgin Islands, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keithsley.

Special music throughout the afternoon was the Rev. Bobby Jackson and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Choplin. Mrs. Joanne Parrish was the pianist. Closing meditations and song was by the Rev. Jackson. Closing prayer was by Mr. W.G. Williams.

After the service everyone was invited to the fellowship hall for a reception honoring the Rev. Wingate Hansley.

The following poem was written by the Rev. Wingate Hansley in preparation for a message, "Man looketh on the outward appearance."

It's your walk and not your talk, my brother
that's so important in our day.
For our fellow men remembers us by what we're doing
not so much by what we say.
He will see each act of kindness
or remember deeds of sin.
So, your acts of sin or kindness will direct
the steps of men.

Men are looking for excuses,
something to blame their fault upon.
Will your life give them that privilege
or direct them to the "Son?"
Stepping stones through all your actions,
or stumbling blocks your life will be.
It's your duty and your privilege
to let them in you Jesus see.

Now the choice is yours, my brother
help another if you can.
God rewards those who are faithful
honest to his fellow man.
For your light is brightly glowing
or your deeds will put it out.
Every deed is quite important,
Judgment day will leave no doubt.

April 29, 1981

~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Everyone was shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of the Rev. Wingate Hansley July 24, 1997.

Surely he is now reaping the rewards for his fifty dedicated years of service in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Submitted by
Kenly Free Will Baptist Church and Auxiliary

~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Rev. Wingate A. Hansley, 68, of Sneads Ferry, died Thursday, July 24, 1997, in Jacksonville. He was a minister who had given 50 years of dedicated service in the ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ, serving and organizing Free Will Baptist churches of North Carolina and Florida.

The funeral was held Monday, July 28, 1997 at West Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Smithfield with the Rev. Bobby Jackson officiating. Burial followed in the Kirby Family Cemetery in Kenly.

Surviving are his wife, Edith Kirby Hansley; a daughter, Deborah H. Lee of Sneads Ferry; sons, Luther Hansley of Haiti, David Hansley of Goldsboro, Jonathan Hansley of Dunn, mother, Pennie Hansley of FL; sisters, Nancy Drigger of SC and Jewel Thomsen of FL; 13 grandchildren.

T. L. Roberson Receives Award

T. L. Roberson, Jr., better known as "Jack," was recently honored with the James E. West Fellowship Award at Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church located near Bear Grass. The James E. West Fellowship Award is a national Boy Scout Recognition for individuals who contribute an award in honor of a person or group in the amount of $1000 or more to their local Council Endowment Trust Fund.

This award is named after the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America who exemplified Ralph Waldo Emerson's observation that "an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man." Scouting today is the "lengthened shadow" of more than three decades of the dedicated leadership of Dr. James E. West.

In the presentation Irvin Mizell noted the candidate has served his community as scoutmaster, assistant scoutmaster, scouting coordinator, troop committee member and a Ruritan. He received the Award of Merit, the Green Band Award, The Silver Beaver and the Good Shepherd Award. Mizell said, "Mr. Jack, your shadow is being lengthened in our community by the Bear Grass Boy Scout Troop that you have given so much to as it continues to touch and help guide young boys into men, and also by the donation made to the East Carolina Council Endowment in your honor. It will help to keep the scouting program in our area for years to come. You are deeply loved by your church, the Sunday school, and the Layman's League. They all had a part in making this award possible. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do. You are an encouragement to more people than you will ever know." The certificate was presented by Billy Gurkin, scoutmaster of Bear Grass Troop 218.

Jack taught Sunday school, and served Rose of Sharon as a deacon and trustee for years.



Tipping or Tithing?

by the Rev. Rashie Kennedy

Tithing is giving ten percent of our weekly, monthly, or yearly income. When we consider all that the Lord has done, and is doing for us, tithing should be the very minimum. The Bible says, "tithes and offerings." The offering can be any amount up to 90%, according to one's love and ability. It depends on our love for God and His worldwide command. (Read John 3:16, Malachi 3:8–12, and Matthew 28:18–20).

Go into the average church and look at the offering plate as it comes your way. See the $1.00 tips, but very few larger bills. Then leave the church and go to a restaurant and see the $1.00 tips for the waitress. Who is doing these things? Those who profess to be Christians. Let us go all the way for Christ and the Great Commission as given by our Lord!

Mrs. Boykin Honored

Submitted by Anne Liles, Publicity Chairperson



Lottie Boykin, Marsh Swamp Auxiliary.

On Sunday, July 13, 1997, Mrs. Lottie Davis Boykin of Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church at Rock Ridge, was honored with a Life Time Membership Award for her long active service in the church and auxiliary.

Mrs. Boykin has been a member of the auxiliary for 32 years. She has certainly been loyal in the auxiliary attendance each month whether she had anything to do or not.

She has served the auxiliary well in many capacities. She has served as president for five terms as well as chairperson for other committees. She is currently serving as Program-Prayer Chairperson. She served as the Bible school director for eight years.

Mrs. Boykin has represented the auxiliary as a delegate several times at the district and state conventions. She presently is serving as Western District Study Course Chairperson. Congratulations. We are proud of you.

Christian Gospel Music Celebration at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level

by Pepper Worthington

The Rev. Michael G. Warning, pastor at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level, opened the Gospel Music Sunday, August 10, 1997, with a prayer. "We are thankful people, Lord, for the love and sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We ask that you bless what is done here today. Touch our lives and warm our hearts that there might be a further recognition of our need for Thee. Thank you, Lord, when you do call us together. We celebrate your Presence this day. We don't have to apologize having joy in your house. Help us to be a joyful people. May we all participate and make a joyful noise together. Amen."

Pastor Warning welcomed a church full of singing people. All had come to worship and to celebrate Gospel Music with the trio, The Weatherfords. Pastor Warning said as he pulled his guitar out of its black case, "I made a promise to Harry Taylor. I told him I would bring my guitar and sing. I didn't realize it, but my guitar has been in its case for eight months. Now I'd like Deanna Taylor to join me in singing.



The Rev. Michael G. Warning sang "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" with Deanna Taylor.

The duo sang with the church joining in the chorus. Then Pastor Warning welcomed the Weatherfords. "What a blessing! What a blessing!" he said.

The Weatherfords came to the front to sing their praises to the Lord. They began their ministry under the direction of the group's founder, Earl Weatherford, in 1944. As they sang, the group began to develop a distinctive sound of harmony and blend. Lily Fern Weatherford has been singing from the beginning. Joining her this Sunday were her son, Steve Weatherford, and the talented Jami Caldwell from Portland, Indiana.

Lily Fern Weatherford led the trio with *I'm Just Leaning On Jesus, the Rock of My Soul.* The trio sang the lyrics with a smooth blend, sharp diction, and close harmony.



Steve Weatherford (left), Lily Fern Weatherford (center), and Jami Caldwell (right), known as the Weatherfords, led the Gospel Music Celebration.

The Weatherfords sang Gospel Music to celebrate the Lord this Sunday. They sang favorites: *He Owns Both Sides of the River, What A Precious Friend Is He, One Day At A Time.*

Then Mrs. Taylor announced that Lily Fern Weatherford was to receive an award in March 1998 from the International Organization for Women out of San Diego for being an outstanding Gospel Music Singer. A dozen red roses suddenly appeared and were offered to honor Lily Fern Weatherford as the Queen of Gospel Music in Sea Level.

As Steve Weatherford proclaimed, "Our group has wanted to sing in two places — Sea Level and New York City."

Lily Fern Weatherford added, "Not all of us can walk in a garden every morning as we go down the highway. But, we can make our own garden of prayer. We can talk to Jesus and feel His presence and all of His glory and talk to Him and know for a fact that He is speaking to us. He hears us when we talk to Him. We can always whisper the name of Jesus," she said.

"And," she added, "I would like to thank the Taylors for introducing us to



Deanna Taylor (center) joined the Weatherfords with the celebrative song, "Summertime."

this part of the country."

Pastor Warning closed the Gospel Music celebration with a prayer.



The song, "In the Garden," was sung to Almeta Taylor (center front).

Fellowship followed in the Fellowship Hall. Barbecue, slaw, Boston beans, hushpuppies, tea, sodas, and desserts made the meal a delight to all.

Upon leaving Free Union, Lily Fern Weatherford said, "This is a beautiful church. This is a beautiful community. I've enjoyed singing, and I want to say that some day we'll get to meet again. The longer I live, the more I have on the other side."



Miss Mamie Taylor, one of the celebrative oldest members of Free Union, smiles as music and laughter permeate the Fellowship Hall.



Deanna Taylor shows everyone of the earliest Christian music albums of the Weatherfords.



Happy to meet the charter member of the Weatherfords, namely, Lily Fern Weatherford (far right), were Julian Gaskill (left), Glady Noyes (second), Miss Mamie Taylor (third). (Above Picture)



The church drew vistors as far away as Kinston to the Gospel Music Celebration. W. Roy Poole of Kinston looks over the sheet music of Lily Fern Weatherford while she explains her songs.



Grady Fulcher and his wife Ruth enjoy the fellowship with their grandson.



Fellowship followed, folks enjoyed barbecue, slaw, hushpuppies, Boston beans, desserts, and soul talk.

Out of the Past

The following announcement "Free Will Baptist History" appeared in the September 8, 1897 issue of "The Free Will Baptist."

FREE WILL BAPTIST HISTORY
by
Elds. T. Harrison and J. M. Barfield

It will be issued September 15th, 1897.

It is a book long prayed for and will be read by Preachers and people everywhere with great delight. There have been many histories written, but this will be the first History of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina that has ever appeared.

This work takes up the history of the Free Will Baptist, or the principles of Christianity promulgated through the Free Will Baptist from sixteen hundred and seventy-five to the beginning of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven.

The authors, historically trace these humble children of God through all their dark ages; shows their afflictions, persecutions, ups and downs for over two hundred years giving a graphic picture of their great struggle for liberty and their fidelity to all the commands and examples of Christ and the Apostles to the present. Shows the first Free Will Baptist church organized in America. How Free Will Baptist preachers direct from London, England, organized the Original Free Will Baptist church in North Carolina in 1690. They prove by history that they are 95 years older than the Free Will Baptists in the Norrh. They trace their progress and shows how and when the first Primitive Baptist church and the Kehukee Association were formed out of Free Will Baptist churches. Their dark days from 1755 to 1794. How the little vine climbed over the wall; the awful struggle with secret societies, and a general record of all the Conferences in North Carolina and elsewhere. The lives of our old pioneer Preachers. The faith and practice of the Free Will Baptists vindicated, etc. etc. The book will contain about 400 pages printed on good paper and neatly bound.

Price $1.50

Heritage Tour Announced *by Dr. Michael Pelt*

The Historical Commission of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has announced a Heritage Tour to be held on Sunday, November 2, 1997, that will include visits to Ayden and to two of the oldest surviving churches of the denomination. The tour will begin at the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church at 3:00 PM, where participants will be briefed concerning the purposes of the tour and the places to be visited. These include the site of Eureka College which developed out of Ayden Seminary and the Ayden Cemetery where several Free Will Baptist leaders at the beginning of this century were buried. The different historical locations of the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden will also be noted.

The visit to Ayden, which has been an important center of denominational activity for the past century, will be followed by a stopover at Little Creek Church, which is acknowledged to be the oldest church in denomination. Then participants on the tour will be guided to Gum Swamp Church, the last stop on this pilgrimage to historical sites.

Original Free Will Baptists are the heirs of the earliest English General Baptists who settled in the Albemarle region of Carolina in the late 1600s. Paul Palmer began his ministry among these General Baptists and is credited with the organization of their first church in Chowan Precinct in 1727. Palmer traveled throughout the coastal plain of North Carolina and to other English colonies, preaching his message of general atonement and believer's baptism. Following his death most of the churches that he and his association organized were persuaded by Calvinist Baptists to disband and were recognized as Particular Baptist churches. A few pastors and the churches they served were able to resist this influence and to maintain their General Baptist faith. One of them was Joseph Parker, who brought 100 acres of land on Little Contentnea Creek on December 25, 1756, and settled there. Afterwards he organized Little Creek Church and erected a meeting house at that location. Within a few years he had established "branches" (mission points) of Little Creek Church in other locations, resulting in the organization of Gum Swamp Church in Pitt County, Grimsley Church in Greene County, and Wheat Swamp Church (now Disciples of Christ) in Lenoir County. Parker lived until 1791, providing pastoral leadership for these churches, and was buried near Wheat Swamp Church, to which he had moved in his later years. His contribution as one of the "fathers' of the denomination will be recognized during

Out of the Past: Heritage Tour Announced Cont....

the Heritage Tour.

The major purpose of the tour is the help the participants to better understand and appreciate an important part of their spiritual legacy. Such pilgrimages can be the means of awakening a deeper interest in the origin and development of ideas and institutes of great importance today. Brief presentations will be made at each location on the tour in order to clarify the significance of the places and the historical personalities involved in the development of the denomination. Tour directors and presenters will include the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, pastor of Greenville First Free Will Baptist church; the Rev. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Dr. Alan Lamm, History Professor at Mount Olive College; and Dr. Michael Pelt, author of *A History of Original Free Will Baptists.*

While many participants will travel in private automobiles, local churches that have vans and buses are encouraged to use them, if needed, on this tour in order to reduce the number of vehicles involved. All Free Will Baptist pastors and lay leaders are asked to announce this event at various church meetings and to encourage participation by all interested persons.

Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary

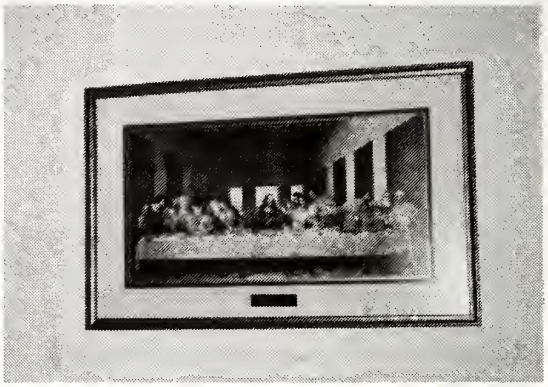
The Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary will meet October 8, 1997, at the Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, near Erwin, NC. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM. The meeting will end by 12:30, at which time lunch will be served. All Cape Fear women are invited to attend and all the district auxiliaries are urged to be represented.

The James A Evans Lecture

More than thirty-five ministers and their wives attended the James A. Evan Lecture held at Mount Olive College, August 4, 1997. The theme was, "Reaching Secular People." The Lecture was open to ministers from other denominations. Pictured with the group is Dr. James A. Evans (center).



Painting Presented to Westside—*written by Eleanor Baker*



We serve a great big wonderful God and He continues to bless His people at Westside. Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston celebrated its Twentieth Anniversary on the first Sunday in May. It also was the fifth year of our Pastor, Jeff Daughtry. During the services, a painting depicting the Lord's Supper was given to the church and dedicated in a special ceremony in memory of the Rev. Clifton Rice, who served as Westside's first full-time pastor. The Rev. Rice preached for seventy years and was known and loved by all.

This painting has been hung on the wall in the Fellowship Hall, the former sanctuary, where the Rev. Rice stood to deliver his messages at Westside.

Sandy Plain Hosts Matt Fore on October 31

Sandy Plain will again this year hold a night of fun and games as an alternative to Halloween. There will be game booths for all ages as well as ham biscuits, hot dogs, baked goods, and lots of candy and prizes. This year's featured entertainment will be Matt Fore, a Christian illusionist. He will present a program of comedy, sleight of hand, and illusion while bringing children and adults the message of Jesus Christ. Booths will be open from 6 PM to 9 PM. Matt Fore will be performing at 7:30 PM. Sandy Plain Original Free Will Baptist Church is located on Highway 241 between Beulaville and Pink Hill.

The Fifty-Third Annual Session of the Albemarle Conference of Original Free Will Baptists

Malachi's Chapel Church • Columbia, North Carolina
October 8, 1997
Theme: The Call to the Word.

Morning Session
9:30 Hymn — Congregation
The Rev. Mott Batchelor, Song Leader
Devotions — the Rev. Bill Mobley
9:40 Welcome — Host Church
Response — Brother Fentress Simons
Call to Order — Conference Clerk
Adoption of Program
Roll Call of Churches
Seating of Delegates
Roll Call of Ministers
Recognition of Ministers
Moderator's Address — the Rev. Everette Harper

Choruses and Offering

Appointment of Temporary Committees:
Resolutions Committee — Memorial Committee
Reports of Standing Boards and Committees:
Executive Committee — Board of Trustees
Board of Ordination — Board of Missions

FIVE Minute Break
Announcements

Worship Service

Hymn — Congregation
Message in Music — Host Church
Message from the WORD — the Rev. Royce Reynolds
12:00 Lunch

1:00 Song
Devotion — the Rev. Bob Harbe
1:10 Reports of Denominational Ministries
Convention — the Rev. Scott Sowers
Children's Home — Dr. Bobby Taylor
Church Finance — the Rev. Donald Fader
Cragmont Assembly — the Rev. John Williams
Foreign Missions — the Rev. Harold Jones
Free Will Baptist Press — Mr. Cliff Gray
Home Missions and Evangelism — the Rev. David Hansley
Minister's Program — the Rev. Donald Fader
Mount Olive College — Dr. William Byrd
Retirement Homes — the Rev. Bruce Dudley
Sunday School — Sister Mary Dudley

Reports of other Ministries:
Woman's Auxiliary — Layman's League

Memorial Service — the Rev. Billy Reynolds
Business:
Treasurer's Report
Old and Unfinished Business
New Business
Report of Nominating Committee
Report of Resolutions Committee
Appointment of Delegates
Announcement of Next Conference
Reading of Minutes
Adjournment and Benediction

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Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

AUTUMN

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;..." (Ecclesiastes 3:11, New International Version).



Dr. W. Burkette Raper

This issue of *Golden Years* is being written on the day I reached the Biblical age of three-score years and ten — my seventieth birthday. This milestone tells me I have entered the autumn of life; but the thought is not foreboding, for with the passing of the years autumn has become my favorite season.

Autumn In Nature

For whatever reasons, as I reflect over my boyhood years at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, the experiences of autumn are among the most memorable.

I remember those days in late October when trucks from churches in western North Carolina arrived before dawn with apples, potatoes, pumpkins, and home canned goods — especially peaches. We children were awakened early to help unload the trucks before school, and in the pre-dawn darkness we found ways to squirrel away to private hiding places some of the goodies before they reached the pantry.

Autumn was when the leaves fell and formed a golden carpet on the paths through the woods to my rabbit boxes.

The big day of the year was Thanksgiving. On that day, regardless of how cold, hundreds of people from across the state would come to the home with their pickups and trucks loaded with every kind of product from the farm: hay, corn, more potatoes, and canned goods, peanuts, and even live chickens and pigs. But most of all they brought their picnic baskets. It was the largest spread of food we saw during the entire year, and for one day we children knew we would get all the food we could eat.

Thanksgiving always included a program of worship. In those days, before the home had a chapel, the people stood in the cold as we children sang from the steps of the main building:

"Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin,"
(Henry Alford).

Autumn: the most beautiful season of the year — the time of harvest and thanksgiving.

Autumn In Human Life

What autumn is to nature, maturity is to human life. Autumn is when the crops and fruits mature and when the leaves fall. In life, autumn is when we attain our maximum excellence; it is the season when life can be at its fullest and best.

Shortly after I began my work at Mount Olive College, the photographer was making my picture for the yearbook. He appeared to be having some difficulty getting the pose he wanted, but finally he said, "I think we have what the annual staff requested." Then he added: "One day I want to make your portrait, but not now — you do not have enough wrinkles." I looked at him in astonishment: "I thought wrinkles were what you wanted to avoid." "Quite to the contrary," he replied, "Wrinkles give character to your face." I am still pondering those words.

Autumn is when the leaves reach the zenith of their beauty, and in human life autumn is when we reach the fullness of maturity. Maturity, however, does not automatically come with the years. Like the harvest of nature, it is the culmination of long periods of work and cultivation.

A minister asked me recently: "How do we teach maturity?" I am not sure it can be taught. It certainly cannot be bought. In my opinion, maturity has to grow out of experience; it can not be attained apart from hardship, the struggle to overcome, and even suffering. The most mature people I know are those who derive their security from the

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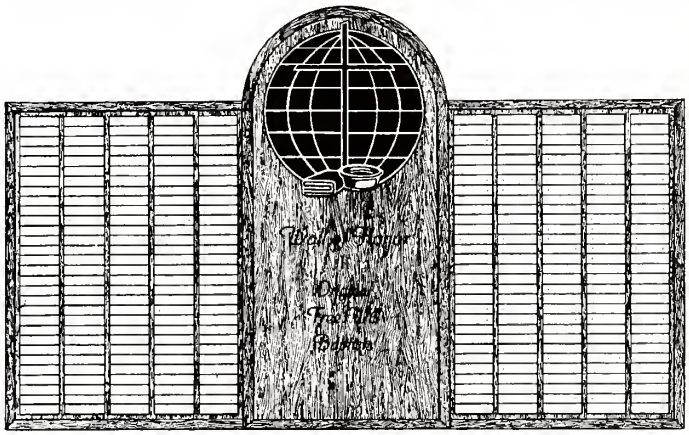
1997 (Vol. 2, No. 12)
W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists



A Gift that lives...

The Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists is a gift that lives. The Wall of Honor will remind us of our rich heritage and present joy of serving Christ through the Original Free Will Baptists.

The Wall of Honor will be located at the Headquarters of our Denomination.

The Wall of Honor is for any Free Will Baptist (Pastor, Ministry Director, Denominational Leaders, Local Church Leaders, and all Laity). For someone to be Honored there must be a gift of $500.00 per person or couple being honored. A plaque with the name of the person being honored and the name of the giver will be placed on the Wall of Honor. Also a special presentation of recognition will be made to the person being honored or his/her family.

...and grows

The gifts received from the Wall of Honor will be used in the following ways: $250.00 will go into the "Wall of Honor Endowment" and $250.00 will go into the general funds of the Convention. The Wall of Honor gifts become gifts that help the present, assures the Convention of a ministry in the future, and becomes a lasting tribute to that person honored.

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"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good,..." Romans 2:10.

The Golden Years: Autumn Cont...

self-discipline and values by which they live. Maturity is a quality of life which differentiates noble people from those who never come to the fullness of life.

Having reached the autumn of life, I would not want to go back to the more simple years. Everything now has more meaning and depth: I read the Bible with new insights; my relationship with God is more enriched; human firendships are more meaningful; family ties are warmer; my work has new dimensions; the world of nature is more beautiful; I increasingly see history as the providence of God in human affairs; and life itself, with all its peaks and valleys, becomes more and more like a symphony.

Autumn is the season when life can be at its fullest and best, and my goal is to make it so.

The days of our years are three-score and ten, wrote the Psalmist, and then he prayed: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Ruth Lancaster Warrick. *New Devotions.* Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 1997. 283 pages.

Introduction: Another Look

Last month we glimpsed the sweet spirit that swims through the daily devotions of Ruth Lancaster Warrick's new book. Her use of metaphor, historical events, and meditative concepts make her work worth reading. Yet, another look at her *New Devotions* reveals the multi-layered dimensions of time-awareness, fragile aging, particular people, significant moments, and of prayer power. Her voice reaches down to us where we are, how we move and have our being.

Fragile Aging

Affectionately Ruth Warrick writes about her 90-year-old sister who lives over 100 miles from her. Her sister's husband is an invalid, the fragility of age a hard reality. But Ruth Warrick surmises that God is giving her sister "the strength to take care of him" (184).

Many of her friends die and she finds herself in funeral homes over and over again. Death comes suddenly. One of her neighbors received flowers and attention because the neighbor's sister died suddenly in Virginia. Ruth Warrick muses: "Christians are under the watch care of an ever-loving Father, so we must be willing to say, 'Thy Will be done, not ours'" (144).

Aging is fragile. Mrs. Warrick writes about a women with a blood clot in her leg (145), about her 95-year-old stepmother who had cataract surgery (153), about a co-worker who fell and broke her arm (156), about a friend with cancer (163), about a woman unable to swallow after a stroke (197).

Particular People

In her daily devotions, Mrs. Warrick draws attention to particular people as if to remind us that her thoughts are specifically linked to her love of people. Her expansiveness in orientation sweeps into view historical people from Charles A. Lindbergh (154), Neil Armstrong (159), Henry Ford (166), Castro (186), Dr. Billy Graham and his son Franklin Graham (209), Lincoln (177), Freddie Sun in China (207).

Closer to home she speaks about the courage of Jackie Parrish (143), about the missionary zeal of Rev. Harold Jones (171), and Becky Jo Sumner's Christian leadership (170), about Ms. Alice in her Auxiliary (205), about her father as a minister (188), about her son as a lay-speaker (188), about her wedding on November 8, 1941, about the death of her husband in 1978.

Significant Moments

Days unfold with significant moments for this woman of faith. She believes her son's gift of Bibles to his three daughters "with their names engraved on them" (134) is precious. She cherishes "Homecoming" at her church (218). She sees the Mayflower Compact of 1620 as a desire for "freedom of religion" (272). She views the 1963 Supreme Court decision to ban the Lord's Prayer in schools as the cause for moral decline in our nation (134).



Conclusion

Perhaps most moving in Ruth Warrick's devotions is her rooted belief in the power of prayer. She blesses the "humility" of James B. Hunt's prayer (260). She discovers comfort and tranquility for herself and her two children when she turned to prayer during "a severe thunderstorm" when she was left alone. She inherently senses that prayer is the key "to unlock the door to Heaven" (139).

Her concluding prayer in *New Devotions* is a loving call: "If one soul finds a closer walk with you, Lord, because of this book, I shall be grateful" (280).

***New Devotions* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson**

The Crisis Of Leadership

Untapped Leadership

by Gary M. Bailey

The church of the 1980s and now the 1990s is a different church than the church of just a few years earlier. In today's world and in today's church, leadership is needed as never before. Leadership is not an option for the church. Neither is leadership guaranteed by paying the ordained clergy to oversee our churches.

The members of the church today are more educated than they were in the past. Members of the church are exposed to much more in terms of leadership in the work place, in the school, and in business than were church members twenty or thirty years ago. People today are not content to sit by idly and be told by the clergy that they are to do this or that relative to their Christian life.

The people who occupy the pews today are also occupying positions of leadership in other aspects of their lives. Therefore, they are accustomed to thinking and reasoning through problems and situations. In all honesty, many lay people are better managers, businessmen, and leaders than are many of the clergy.

This should be a reason for joy. For if the body of Christ is composed of people capable of direction, instruction, and administration, the entire body should be stronger. That is what one would hope!

In far too many circumstances, the clergy fail to appreciate the leadership qualities of their lay people. Many clergy are guilty of not tapping into the leadership resources in their own churches. Instead of channeling the competencies and abilities of their people, some clergymen actually fight against members of their churches in a power struggle. If there is no outward confrontation, there is sometimes disregard or purposeful neglect. This is distressing because many people who are very good pastors are not very good leaders.

Some clergymen believe or act as if they are leaders simply by virtue of their position as Pastor or Senior Pastor. Position itself does not make a leader. Assuming that position automatically establishes leadership may be the plight of many clergy. It may also be the bane of many churches.

Leadership is needed as never before. The world is much more complex than in the past. People are more educated. The church is up against more competition for the time and attention of people than ever before. The world offers more entertainment and glamour than the local church can easily match. The church must then effectively and efficiently tell the story of Jesus Christ and present His claims in a manner that appeals to today's people. The truth of the gospel has not changed, and human nature has not changed. But methods to reach people in the latter years of this century and in the early years of the next must keep pace with education and exposure.

The clergy must recognize that others in the church are qualified to lead. The clergy must also be willing to allow the lay people to provide leadership and direction. Although the clergy are the spiritual leaders, they may not be the best or only qualified leaders in the church.

Churches whose clergy resent strong lay leaders and who refuse to acknowledge the expertise of lay people are doomed to struggle along at a snail's pace while the world passes them by. The greatest thing to happen in the church today in the area of leadership is for the clergy to identify and work with members of the church who have the expertise to lead in their given areas. When that happens fully, then and only then can the clergy devote the time needed for proper ministry.

Students of the Bible are aware of an early leadership crisis in the sixth chapter of Acts. The apostles instructed the church to choose seven men qualified to serve and lead. If the apostles had failed to appreciate the leadership qualities of the men appointed by the church to serve the tables, most of us would never have heard of the work of Jesus Christ. If the apostles had insisted on serving the tables because they could do it better than anyone else, they could not have devoted the necessary time to praying and preaching. Heaven help us as clergy to avoid that same trap.

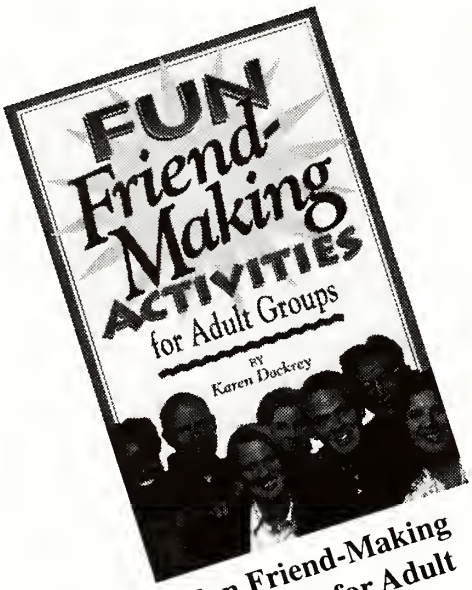
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Gary Bailey
Born: February 17, 1952
Married: Christy Raper Bailey
Children: Suzanne and Justin
Education: Mount Olive College and NC State University
Ordained: 1972
Membership: Stoney Creek
Denominational Service: Elm Grove and Stoney Creek Churches; Secretary and President of Convention of OFWB; Foreign Mission Board; Cragmont Board; Moderator Control Conference and Board of Ordination; Sunday School Board. Served on Committee to Revise *The Articles of Faith.*

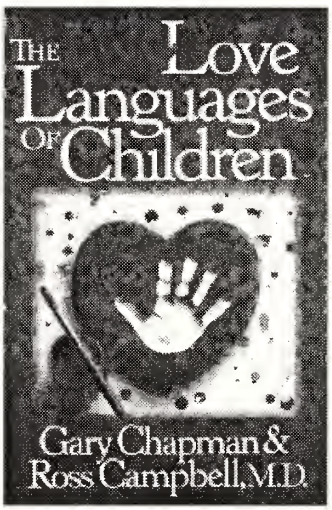
Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership*. The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

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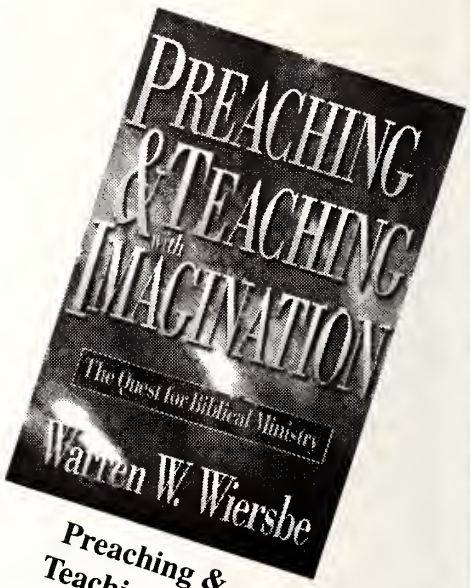
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November 1997

The Free Will Baptist



FEATURING:

Let Us Give Thanks

Festival of Faith for 1998

Convention's Annual Session (Part 1)

The Crisis of Leadership "Recruitment and Preparation for Leadership"

Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

For Which I Am Most Thankful

(This editorial was written in the November 27, 1968, issue of "The Free Will Baptist." It is still appropriate because it expresses the way I felt then and the way I feel now, although many changes have occurred in my life during the almost thirty years since its writing.)

As we ponder the blessings of Thanksgiving, our voices should blend in one song of praise to God. The heart is filled with gratitude. We cannot count the blessings, for they are too numerous. Just think, therefore, of three things for which you are most thankful. If you could name only three, what would they be? As for myself, they are as follows:

First, I am thankful that the mercy and grace of God has been personally revealed to me through Jesus Christ and His Holy Word. I am grateful that when I sought Him in sincere faith and confessed my sins, He heard my prayer, forgave me of my sins, and received me. I remember the time and place with vivid detail even today. There was an instantaneous transformation from spiritual death to spiritual life. The guilt and conviction of past years were gone. Since that hour His divine providence has led me. I am thankful that He has many times been a source of comfort and strength, and that He has helped me even when I would not acknowledge my need for help. I am grateful that He has given me the victory of life's trials and testings, and that He has never required of me more than I could accomplish.

Second, I am thankful for the blessings of God upon America. Who can truthfully deny the reality of these blessings? Yet, how often have we heard the remark that things could not be any worse in this country. A lady writes that one day she met an acquaintance who had a sardonic smirk on his face: "He hunched his shoulders, threw up his hands, and spat these word at me: 'Give thanks? For what? Taxes have doubled. I've got five children to put through school, and my work is heavy labor!'" Looking him straight in the eye, the lady replied: "Give thanks? A million times over! Be grateful that your tax-laden house hasn't been wrested from you, that your children aren't sick in the hospital, that your body isn't too weak to work."

In spite of her weaknesses, shortcomings, and recent turmoil, America is still the greatest country the world has ever known, for God has greatly blessed her. It is true that her blessings have come in the midst of many testings and trials, yet these are the things that give strength when the true purpose is in view. The freedom and beauty of America is something to bring praise to our lips and thanksgiving in our hearts. So instead of criticizing our great nation so intently, let's thank God for His manifold blessings upon her.

Third, I am thankful for individual liberty. The right to express views, to disagree with the leaders of my country, and the privilege to be an individual are rights that are denied many souls in the world today. I know that the exercising of these rights, coupled with the divine leadership of God, will make me just what God would have me to be.

Within these individual freedoms, I am thankful for the right to buy and sell, to own my own home, to receive the love of family and friends; and most of all, to worship God who loved me so much that he gave His Son for my redemption.

These are blessings that will not end on Thanksgiving Day. They are three things for which I am most thankful everyday of my life.

The Promise Keepers

The Promise Keepers' rally on the Mall in Washington, DC, on October 4–5, proved to be a fresh, spiritual breeze blowing across the land. Their gathering in the nation's capital has been ranked as perhaps the largest gathering ever held there. And it was for such a great noteworthy cause. There was no political agenda and no demands were placed upon our already tangled government.

Who can honestly and truthfully disagree with the principles that the Promise Keepers are encouraged to keep?

1. Trust in Christ
2. Form a few close male friendships.
3. Practice moral and sexual purity.
4. Love your wife and children.
5. Support your local church.
6. Overcome racial and denominational prejudice.
7. Encourage other men to do likewise.

Promise Keepers was organized in 1990 by Bill McCartney, former University of Colorado football coach. Since the first meeting of 72 men in Boulder, more than 2.6 million men have attended 61 Promise Keepers events across America. Its stated goals are to unite Christian men of all races, denominations, ages, cultures, and socioeconomic groups; believing accountable relationships among men are critical in helping one another in relationships with God, wives, children, and each other.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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NEXT MONTH

December is Foreign Missions Month

November is Children's Home Month

Let Us Give Thanks

Psalm 95: 1–7

1. *O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.*
2. *Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.*
3. *For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*
4. *In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.*
5. *The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.*
6. *O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.*
7. *For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand…*

Psalm 100: 1–5

1. *Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.*
2. *Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*
3. *Know ye the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*
4. *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*
5. *For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*



Festival of Faith for '98 Planned for Greenville, NC

FRANKLIN GRAHAM
Festival of Faith

A REMINDER to *P R A Y*

Participate in a
Prayer Group
in your community

Carolyn Massey, Coordinator 756–2385

Greenville
Carolyn Massey — 756–2385

Washington
Sylvia Wright — 946–4150

New Bern
Dora Taylor — 637–2907
Other communities are needed!

If you are interested in leading a prayer group in your community, please contact Carolyn.

Prayer Mission Statement
Our mission is to encourage the body of Christ to be united in prayer for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in eastern North Carolina. (Matthew 28:18–20)

On September 30, 1997, representatives of the BGEA officially announced a Crusade to be held September 27–30, 1998, in Greenville. The services will take place in Dowdy-Ficklin Stadium and is expected to attract thousands from the eastern North Carolina area. The announcement was made at a gathering of nearly 500 interested representatives from various churches and organizations in the area. The Rev. Herb McCarthy, BGEA representative, stated: "It is a pleasure to accept your invitation. We are very excited about this opportunity and the privilege you have given us."

The Crusade will feature the Rev. Franklin Graham, son of the famous evangelist, Billy Graham.

During the September 30 meeting, a new executive committee was announced, with monthly meetings to be held with the BGEA crusade director, Sherman Barnette. Training sessions are also being scheduled. Mr. Barnette stated that the meeting was one of the largest announcement meetings that he has seen.

The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, pastor of Greenville First Free Will Baptist Church, serves on the steering committee. He has a video pertaining to the Crusade that is available to area churches. Any person that is interested in utilizing the video may contact him at (919) 756–6600.

Relationship of a Franklin Graham Crusade to the Associate Crusade Ministries of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Our Crusade, conducted in cooperation with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, begins with and is carried to completion by the local church. It is our churches that have invited the evangelist to our community. Our churches provide personnel for the committees, who volunteer during the months of preparation, the days of the Crusade and throughout extensive follow-up. It is our churches that receive the joyful benefits of the Crusade by way of individuals who make commitments to Christ and the spiritual renewal of many church members.

When the Rev. Franklin Graham accepts an invitation to come to a city, he provides experienced personnel who will serve as advisors to the local committee. They will share methods, materials and knowledge gathered through 40 years of experience and study of Crusade evangelism. In every Crusade the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association asks that specific

Cont. on next page

Relationship of a Franklin Graham Crusade... Cont....

policies be established in the areas of organization, finance and follow-up in order to maintain integrity and fairness to all involved.

ORGANIZATION: A Crusade Committee, composed of clergy and laypersons representative of the local Christian community, incorporate as the policy-making and guiding body for the Crusade. The local Crusade Committee will be dissolved within six months following completion of the Crusade meetings in order to ensure that it will function only for the purpose for which it was established.

FINANCES: The Crusade budget is established by the Crusade Executive Committee which will raise, receive, account for and disburse all funds. Tax-deductible receipts will be given for all gifts, and at the end of the Crusade, an audit will be prepared by a certified public accountant and published in the local newspapers. Franklin Graham will come to the city at no expense to the local Committee. His salary is paid by Samaritan's Purse and he accepts no personal remuneration from the local Committee.

FOLLOW-UP: Since the Crusade is sponsored by local churches, all inquirers who respond in the meetings will be referred back to local congregations. In addition, several other follow-up resources will be used to help inquirers in their spiritual growth.

A Billy Graham Associate Evangelist Crusade has two primary objectives: first, it seeks to evangelize the community using a variety of methods with primary emphasis on personal evangelism; second, it seeks to strengthen the local church for continuing witness and discipleship through renewal and training activities during Crusade preparations. These clearly stated objectives of a Crusade go beyond making "decisions," to the making of disciples linked to the local church where they can grow in fellowship and service. These objectives can only be achieved as our churches and thousands of Christians commit themselves wholeheartedly to pray, to work and to witness in a cooperative effort of proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to our entire area.

Crusade Prayer Requests

Please Pray...

- For Christians to meet God's conditions for revival (2 Chronicles 7:14), beginning with you and me.
- For pastors, that the Crusade will be a help and encouragement in their lives and ministries.
- For the Crusade Committee and the Crusade office staff, that they will be given strength and wisdom in each of their responsibilities.
- For the Operation Andrew ministry, that Christians will faithfully pray for and invite the unchurched to the Crusade.
- For the students and all the young people in the area, that God will prepare their hearts to receive Christ.
- For the hundreds of counselors needed for the Crusade, that God will give them special love and wisdom to minister in each service to those making spiritual commitments.
- For Franklin Graham, that God will give him special anointing to speak with power during the Crusade.
- For the inquirers who will come forward during the Crusade, that they will be firmly established in their Christian lives.
- For the follow-up program in each church, that the new Christians will be nurtured and encouraged through Small Group Bible Studies and personal counseling.
- For the Team members and special guests coming for the Crusade, that they will be strengthened by God's power to glorify the Lord Jesus.
- For those who will be choir members and ushers, that they will serve "as unto the Lord."
- For the financial needs of the Crusade, that the necessary funds will be raised.
- For those in government, education, law enforcement and media, to respond positively to the purpose of the Crusade.

The CALL to the Word: Eighty-Fifth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists: Part I

by Dr. Pepper Worthington • Writer-In-Residence • Mount Olive College

The Rev. Ray Wells, President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, welcomed more than 700 Free Will Baptists to the Convention on Wednesday, September 17, 1997, held in College Hall at Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC.

Outside, the grounds of the College sported seasonal flowers and a green landscape. People strolled to their seats to hear the remarks of the President:

"The Theme of the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is *A Call to the Word*. For my remarks, I want to take a few moments to look at the *Word*. I want to use those four letters as an acrostic for my remarks:

The President then expounded on the following acrostic:

W — Witness of the Word
O — Obey the Word
R — Read the Word
D — Demonstrate the Word

He concluded by saying: "We as Original Free Will Baptists have adopted this theme, *The Call to the Word*, as our Convention call. Let us answer this call with compassion and commitment."



The Rev. Ray Wells (left), President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, talks to Mrs. Ruth Lancaster Warrick and her son, the Rev. Al Warrick.

CHILDREN'S HOME REPORT

Dr. Bobby Taylor came to the platform to give the annual report on the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc. (pages 23–27 in the 1996–1997 *Annual Reports*). "Each family in the Free Will Baptist church who gives a little bit of change to the Children's Home touches the lives of the children," he said.

"Children in our world need help. Did you know that 43 children were killed last year as a result of child abuse? The needs of children are greater than ever. This ministry in our denomination touched the distress of children who need our care.

"Let me tell you about a staff meeting of adult leaders," he continued. "One of our adult leaders, Ron Prost, became concerned about the pain of children. He wanted to pray for our child care ministry. I would like to read you Ron Prost's prayer," he said.

Most loving Father, the example of parenthood, you have entrusted these young people to us, to nurture them for you, and to prepare them for everlasting life. With your grace, may we fulfill this sacred duty with competence and love.

Teach us to be gentle and considerate, yet firm, fair, and watchful. Give us the courage to be disliked sometimes by the children when we must do necessary things which are displeasing in their ages. Give us the imagination to enter their world in order to understand and guide them.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Dr. Bobby Taylor, Director of the Children's Home declared that children in our world need help.

CHURCH FINANCE REPORT

The Rev. Don Fader, director of the Church Finance Association, greeted the delegates,

pastors, and participants at the Convention. "The Board of Directors and the Membership of the Church Finance Association bring greetings to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. This past year has been a successful one for the Association and we would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve our denomination. At the present time we have almost one and three-quarters million dollars of loans outstanding to the churches and ministries of our denomination. These loans are two percent below the lending rate charged by most commercial banks for churches. Based on this rate our churches and ministries are saving over $35,000 per year in interest cost and you have made this possible. We are a non-profit membership organization and all income remains with the Association to help serve our Convention churches and ministries.

"This past year, 1996, was my first year as director of the program. I learned a lot. I learned I have an awful lot to learn," he said with a smile.

"Our loans have increased. Our memberships have increased. We have begun a computerization of our program to provide a higher level of service. We are striving to meet the financial needs of our churches and our ministries. The sum of $500 deposits with us helps us grow. Anytime a church has a need to borrow money, look to the Church Financial Association first. Anytime we can meet with you, let us know," he concluded.

CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY



The Rev. John Williams, Director of Cragmont Assembly, urged Free Will Baptists to give more to the ministries of the denomination.

"No, I'm not Johnny Cash," boomed the Rev. John Williams as he began his report on Cragmont Assembly. Dressed in a long-coat tuxedo, his hair long and his beard fluffy, he did look like Johnny Cash. All he lacked was his guitar.

"Think for a moment," he said as he shifted gears from wit to wisdom. "Where did you make the key decisions in your life? Where do young people make their key decisions? The answer might be when at a camp. When we spend time in God's creation, we often hear God speak in a powerful way.

"Other individuals are challenged in their lives as they learn to get away to the mountains to strengthen their faith. At Cragmont, pivotal moments in a person's life, do occur.

"I work in this kind of environment where God can use the ministry of nature on a daily basis. There are nagging details of keeping up with the facility. Roof repairs, payroll, screen doors, are just as important to attend to as standing before a group by a fire. Someone has to do it," he explained.

In the Cragmont Report, the Rev. Williams noted that the 116 acres of property rest on the slopes of Mount Allen just north of Black Mountain, NC. Since 1945, Cragmont Assembly has gathered together people for youth retreats, Woman Auxiliary conferences, spring and fall retreats, skiing in the winter, church, and minister's retreats.

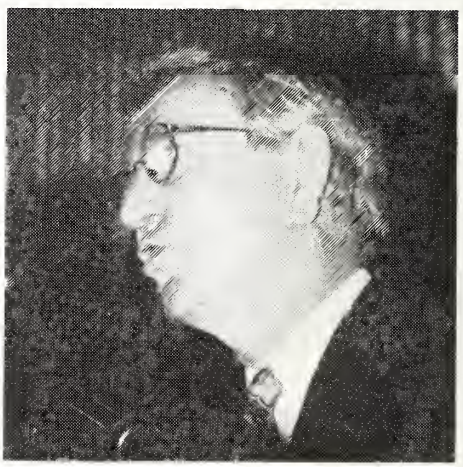
"We hope to see Cragmont take even more of a leading role in the spiritual life of our people. We want to be an extension of the ministry already going on in our churches.

"And Cragmont," he stressed, "is able to accommodate all our people for *decision, discipleship,* and *discovery.*"



The Rev. Don Fader (left, the Rev. C. H. Overman (center), and the Rev. John Williams (right) discuss issues presented at the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Convention.

FOREIGN MISSIONS REPORT



The Rev. Harold Jones, Director of the Board of Foreign Missions, stressed the importance of the reserve fund for emergencies.

"Greetings to the Annual Convention, conferences, associations, and the auxiliary conventions of Original Free Will Baptists from the Board of Foreign Missions," began the Rev. Harold Jones, "Our Foreign

Missions is now called OFWB International," he continued.

"We have 225 workers that we support around the world. The 1996–97 church year was most remarkable. The Lord has abundantly supplied the needs for this ministry through the faithful prayer and financial support of Free Will Baptist churches and individuals. This is your ministry to the world. Our challenge is always to be good stewards of God's resources, while making Christ known to those who do not know Him.

"Throughout the year you have been kept abreast of the ministry of Foreign Missions through the *Command* and the *Free Will Baptist*. This report is only a brief summary of those activities. If you do not receive the *Command* or the *Free Will Baptist*, please subscribe today!

"I recommend that you read our report on pages 35–47 in the *Annual Reports*. Read this report to your churches," he encouraged.

"Our short term teams have had experiences that words cannot describe. From Mexico has come a letter from Karla to thank the short term teams for building a pastoral house. She expressed a gratefulness for not being cold this next winter. The cement house that we build has no heating or air-conditioning, but it seems to be a mansion to Karla.

"I have a dream of every pastor and every church member becoming a member of a short term team. This would enrich the life of the whole church," he insisted.

"Let me tell you, that this past year was a wonderful year. We did not have to be anxious for funds. I am thankful for your faithful prayers and financial support.

"But let me address the issue of the *reserve fund* of the Board of Foreign Missions. I am thankful for the reserve fund that we have. Reserves come and in God's time they go. We operate debt-free. We hold no real assets. Our monthly budget is $34,716.75. We have no secrets. If churches stop giving because we have a reserve fund, the Foreign Missions program would cease to be. A reserve fund is a sound financial policy. This fund serves to help during lean months. This fund exists for special emergency needs.

"If you ever have any questions about the Board of Foreign Missions, please come by my office and talk to me. The Board serves only as Trustees. And invite me to come to your church," he offered.

President Ray Wells added, "I echo what Brother Harold said. Please feel free to contact directors of the ministries today."

Executive Administrator W. Scott Sowers announced three new workshop additions to the Convention: (1) Mary Dudley's Workshop on Sunday School Leadership; (2) Mike Nason's Workshop on using news releases to promote church activities; (3) The Rev. W. Scott Sowers' Workshop on computers and the ministry.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1996–97 OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Full coverage of mission statements, recommendations, financial data, and other important information may be found in the published *Annual Reports for 1996–97 of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*, collected and prepared by the Rev. W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator.



The Rev. W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists, announced the full reports in the "Annual Reports for 1996–97" book.

For more information, write: W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513–0039, or Phone (919–746–4963; Fax (919) 746–7993.

The *Annual Reports for 1996–97* was professionally printed by the Free Will Baptist Press under the leadership of Cliff Gray, Executive Director; C.H. Overman, Editor; and Robert Hadden, Graphic Arts Manager. Also printed for the Eighty-Fifth Annual Session were two other publications: the program, *The Call to the Word*, and the *1997–98 Convention Calendar*. The Free Will Baptist Press is an important ministry as a professional printing resource for the denomination. This was made evident by its contributions in printing services to the 1996–97 Convention.

As the Rev. Michael Warning, pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level, said, "The Free Will Baptist Press is the ministry in the denomination that literally gets the *Word* out there to our people. Printing is a ministry, for the printing of our Sunday school material, our denominational magazine, *The Free Will Baptist*, and all the reports, calendars, bookmarks, and aids that make our witness available in hand as well as in heart come from the efforts of the staff in Ayden. Praise God!" he exclaimed as he wrote himself a note in the beautifully prepared *1997–98 Convention Calendar.*

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Wednesday morning worship service began with the music of Mount Olive College's *Free Spirit*. A joyous celebration of worship started with their song, "Let's Get Together—Let's Have Church."

The powerful song, "There Is A Name," reminded listeners of the name of Jesus.

Executive Administrator, W. Scott Sowers, rose to introduce the morning speaker, the Rev. Rudy Owens. "Thank you, *Free Spirit!* What a wonderful message in song, It is a blessing to hear a group of young people proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you, Mount Olive College, for such a fine group of talented young people," he acknowledged.

"Audio tapes are available for any who might like to listen to any of our worship services," he announced.

"Now," he began as he eyed the speaker, "there may have been nervousness on Rudy's part when he

saw I would introduce him. I have followed his ministry closely. He has faithfully served our denomination."

THE MORNING MESSAGE

"If I had had the opportunity to choose my own topic, I would have chosen the one given to me — *Commitment to the Word.* Why? We live in a lost world," said the Rev. Rudy Owens, speaker for the Wednesday morning, September 17, 1997, worship service.



The Rev. Rudy Owens

"Without Jesus Christ there is no hope. We must reconcile lost humanity to our Holy God. How can we fulfill this honor? We must be challenged to commit ourselves to the *Word,*" he stressed.

"How might we commit to the *Word*?" he asked. "We must commit in three ways: (1) to the *living Word;* (2) to the *written Word;* (3) to the *practice of the Word.* The Rev. Owens then launched into a very powerful message relative to commitment to the Word. He concluded the message by declaring:

"Only as we commit ourselves to God's call upon our lives do we practice the *Word.* The only hope the world has is the hope of Jesus and His reconciliation. We must carry this hope into our offices, schoolhouses, factories, and homes. We must rid ourselves of any pride or any selfishness that will stop us from fulfilling this commitment to the *Word,*" he concluded.



Mount Olive College singing group, "Free Spirit," opened the Wednesday morning worship service.



(From left to right front row) Mrs. Ruth Lancaster Warrick, author of New Devotions; Flora Ann Scearce, author of Singer of An Empty Day; Margerie Goggie Allen, author of The Fire Inside; Peggy Gambill, author of Patchwork. (From left to right back row) Eddie Williams, author of Iodine Days; and Sam Barbee, author of Changes of Venus.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PRESS RELEASES SIX BOOKS

The Mount Olive College Press released six books at the Eighty-Fifth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The six authors met Free Will Baptists in the Murphy Center during the luncheon coordinated by Tharen Taylor of Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church near Deep Run.

On hand to introduce authors to Free Will Baptists were Lillian Grubbs of Snow Hill Free Will Baptist Church and the Rev. Michael Gauker Warning, pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level.

Mrs. Ruth Warrick's book, *New Devotions,* is the choice for the 1997 Bridge Builders gift from Mount Olive College. The gift has been made possible by the Poole Foundation. Mrs. Warrick's devotions offer a daily reflection for building a commitment to the living and written *Word,* and for demonstrating how a commitment to practice the *Word* may be possible.

Margerie Goggin Allen's poetry book, *The Fire Inside,* is a seasonal poet's look into relationships and nature, while Sam Barbee's *Changes of Venue,* give a glimpse of childhood, grandparents, and growing up with the sense of loss. Peggy Gambill's poetry book, *Patchwork,* introduces us into a past of patchwork quilts, farm life,

family stories, and a search for reconciliation. Flora Ann Scearce's novel, *Singer of An Empty Day*, presents a poignant story of a mountain family at the turn of this century. Eddie Williams's poetry book, *Iodine Days*, recalls the days of a young boy on a farm when his accidents often called for iodine as a cure.

W. SCOTT SOWERS WELCOMES GUESTS AT THE CONVENTION

W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator, welcomed all who came to the Convention. "We recognize other people who join with us in our relationship together to the Lord Jesus Christ. We welcome in particular Bishop Forbes of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference of America.

"We would also like to thank the ladies from the Woman's Auxiliary for serving as ushers. We appreciate them," he said.

BISHOP FORBES

"I greet you with a heart full of joy and love," proclaimed Bishop Forbes as he stood before the microphone on the Convention floor.

"I want to love the devil out of everybody I meet. I want to thank all of you who were with me at the time of bereavement with my wife's death," he said and paused.

"I have been a Free Will Baptist since 1946. All I've ever been in my life is a Free Will Baptist. It's not good enough to say, 'I'm a Free Will Baptist,' but we must ask, 'Have you been redeemed?' Not only are we the salt of the earth, we are the sugar, too. I'm on my way to heaven, and I'm happy. If you don't come to see me, I'm coming on back to see you," he announced with a soft laugh.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS REPORT

Mr. Clifford Gray, Director of the Free Will Baptist Press, came to the platform. With a smile he said, "I have a son here at Mount Olive College. All of his classes but one are held in College Hall. His classes were canceled so we could have our Convention here. He sends his heartfelt thanks to you and hopes the Convention will continue to meet in College Hall in the years to come."



Mr. Clifford Gray, Director of the Free Will Baptist Press, noted that sales had increased six percent from the previous year.

Mr. Gray paused while the laughter subsided. He then began his report. "We are now having a subscription drive for the *Free Will Baptist* magazine. Our editor, C. H. Overman, has already mentioned this subscription drive for the *Free Will Baptist*. Order your copy today!" he encouraged.

"This week we have a large selection of Bibles, books, and tapes in Room 221 of College Hall. Go up and see our display. See what type of materials we have. If your church has items of interest, please let me know. If you have work to be printed, let us know.

"Also, we need your support with membership representation for our election Board of Directors. I wrote letters to churches to request proxy cards being sent to me if no one can represent your membership. From the 1500 letters I sent in the past, only 41 responded. We cannot elect a Board of Directors without representation. Please go back to your church and help us get your membership to come to our meetings or to send a proxy card back to me.

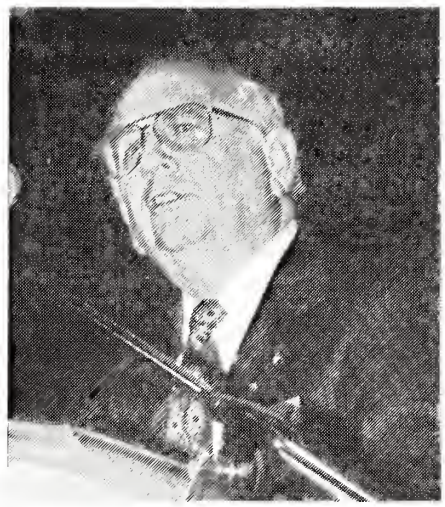
We thank you for your support through your prayers and purchases. We are celebrating 124 years of providing a ministry through the printed page. This year our sales increased six percent over the previous year. For full coverage see the *Annual Reports* on pages 48–53.

"Our printing department is always available to help you with any of your printing needs — from letterhead and business cards, the church bulletins, to wedding invitations. Please call on us when we can be of assistance to you in this area," he concluded.

HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM REPORT

"This is the year of our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary," announced the Rev. David C. Hansley, Director of Home Missions and Evangelism. "It is not our true anniversary, but it is the anniversary of home missions' being set in motion. See our annual report on pages 54–61 in the *Annual Reports*," he informed.

"What I would love to hear is for all moderators to declare they have a new church. Let us pray for those kind of things to happen," he challenged.



The Rev. David C. Hansley challenged, "What I would love to hear is for all moderators to declare they have a new church."

"Our tent has been used to its fullest," he reported. "Coming up the tent will be used in Sneads Ferry and Pamlico County. Our outreach efforts are also extending to Calypso. We are starting a Spanish mission in the old Methodist Church in Calypso, donated to the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism by the Rev. Michael Warning and Dr. Pepper Worthington. We want to use English and Spanish material and call the mission the

Calypso Chapel Spanish Mission," he announced.

"If any of you need the tent for an old-fashioned revival, let us know. Before we know it, the children we reach today will be adults tomorrow. The young adults today will be retired tomorrow. Remember that the best years to reach the lost are before they reach the age of eighteen.

"We have work to do for the Kingdom. I want you to know that 1,700 people signed up to volunteer to be with the advancement team for Harvest Helpers. The Rev. Joe Crumpler decided to volunteer his services free of charge for operational management of our tent. God has blessed us in so many ways.

"We have plans to increase our ethnic missions. We now have ten worship groups among the H'mongs in California, a H'mong Youth Camp in California, a Cambodian Mission church in Moreno Valley, California, and the K'hmu Mission Church in High Point, NC. Soon the Calypso Chapel Spanish Mission will open in Calypso, NC. We also have the Covenant of the Deaf in Hope Mills, NC," he declared with fervor.

"Three of our missions have moved to full church status — Friendly Chapel in Greensboro, Roanoke Valley in Roanoke Rapids, and Silver Creek in Cape Carteret.

"Let us follow the Harvest Covenant and take church growth to a new level," he challenged.

MINISTERS' PROGRAM REPORT



"The Ministers' Program is designed to help our churches provide for our ministers," declared the Rev. Don Fader, Director of the Ministers' Program.

"The Ministers' Program is designed to help our churches provide for our ministers," said the Rev. Don Fader, Director of the Ministers' Program.

"God ordained that the local church has the responsibility to take care of the minister. The minister needs to serve without the burden of financial hardships. With the Widow's Fund and the surviving Minister's Fund, the Free Will Baptist Ministers' Program tries to bring the minister and the church together.

"We need for more churches to participate in this program," he urged. "Over half of our churches do not participate. I ask you to pray for our work and for our ministry," he said.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE REPORT

"I am sensitive to the remarks about the cancellation of classes in College Hall," said Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College. He added with a smile, "Do not expect a refund for your son, Cliff. We shall figure out a way for classes to meet tuition expectations," he declared.

Mr. Cliff Gray laughed as he eyed Dr. Byrd. The afternoon session was beginning to add a playfulness to the intensity.



"Mount Olive College offers students the opportunity to acquire a Church Ministries major with a 55 to 60–week program," announced Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College.

"I just want to say that it is a privilege to work for Mount Olive College," continued Dr. Byrd. "We welcome you here. The coming of the Convention is a milepost in our year. Our ministry is in higher education, and we would invite you to tell us the ways you think we might improve. We thank you for your wonderful support.

"I can attest to the quality of education here and to the close relationship between faculty and students," he continued. "You heard *Free Spirit* today, and you have heard the Concert Choir. You are now hearing from time to time the Mount Olive College story. We are here to help people engage in personal growth. We hope students will be able to accomplish the things they want for themselves.

"We have developed new programs of teacher education and satellite courses. We are coordinating programs with East Carolina University and Old Dominion University. We also offer the opportunity to acquire a Church ministries major with 55 to 60–week program, one night a week for four hours.

"Mount Olive College was chartered as a two-year college at first. Then we were chartered as a four-year college. I would like to direct your attention to our mission statement on page 76. Our mission statement needs to say something about our mission to serve people who vary in age from 17 to 74. We are expanding our mission. We are expanding our outreach. Take, for example, the outreach of our Mount Olive College Press. Six new books are being released today and I would like to acknowledge the six authors now — Flora Ann Scearce, Sam Barbee, Peggy Gambill, Ruth Warrick, Margerie Goggin Allen, and Eddie Williams.

"Mount Olive College is enjoying a good season. We are a growing, dynamic institution. We are also effective in our ministry. We thank you for your ongoing support," he stressed.

(Part II of the Annual Session will be included in the next issue of "The Free Will Baptist.")

Memorial Free Will Baptist Goes to Camp Vandemere

by Warren and Sandra Morrisette

The laughter of children and sounds of splashing could be heard from across the grounds where the children were swimming in the new pool. Smiling mothers quietly rocked in high-backed rocking chairs while enjoying the cool breeze. Fathers were busily baiting hooks and taking fish off for shy little fishermen. The campers were camping, the boaters were boating and life at Camp Vandemere was good.

Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, Chocowinity, NC, arrived on Saturday, September 6, with their usual vigor. It was another beautiful weekend and there was much to look forward to. The typical day would be filled with swimming, fishing, eating, playing games and some good old Christian Fellowship. In fact some members had arrived the previous night to get an early start.

Memorial Church has many traditions when it comes to Camp Vandemere. The routines start with a good meal. After eating lunch the children head for the swimming pool and play on the jungle gym while the mothers just sit back and try to relax. The fathers try to catch a few fish and maybe pass on a little fishing lore to the youngsters. Sometimes the mothers even do a little fishing too. Of course no one believes the stories about the ones that got away.

As the evening sun sets in the west, the final meal is eaten and the ladies of Memorial take a casual stroll through Vandemere. This is a tradition that has been going on for years. The men go back to the pier to try to catch one more big one for the day. By dark, the ladies have usually caught their breath, the men, well, they usually still haven't caught anything.

Sounds of laughter can always be heard in the dorm until well after midnight. Jokes, games, and puzzles always seem to make the time more special and fun, even when the thousand-piece puzzle is missing one piece.

Sunday morning is filled with fellowship and organization of Sunday school lessons. The different classes pick out their favorite locations. Some go outside and some decide to stay inside. The Sunday school teachers always seem to do a good job. The morning message, given by William Upton and Russell Tyson this year, was enjoyed by all. Brother Owen Arthur, our pastor, had the opportunity to sit back and relax, enjoying the sermon given by the Deacons. Brother Owen had to get in the last word. He has a little trouble relaxing.

After the service, a grilled lunch was on order. Herman Tyson and William Upton had the honor of cooking this year. William Upton can not only give a good sermon, he also wields a pretty mean spatula. The meal traditionally consists of hamburgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings. Desserts were made by the ladies of the church and many recipes were fat free, except for Mrs. Upton's five-layer chocolate cake, but no one seemed to care if she slipped in a little fat.

The rest of the day is filled with fellowship. Some go swimming, others go fishing, or just try to relax. It really didn't matter where you went or who you were with, plans were already being made for next year's trip to Camp Vandemere.

Memorial will be back again next year and invites everyone to take a trip to Camp Vandemere. If you don't know whether you would like to come to Vandemere, come on down anyway and stay a weekend. Give it a try and, you might see, Camp Vandemere is truly a great place to be.

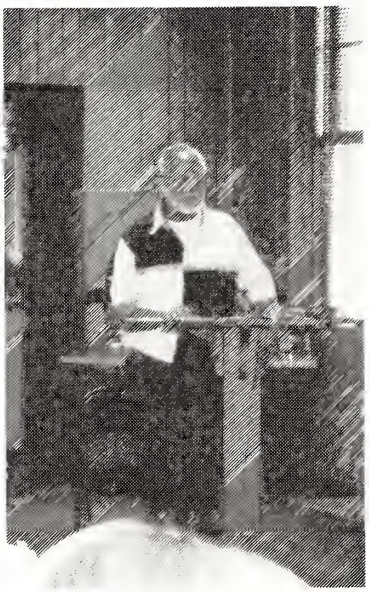
Layman's League Dates to Remember

November 6	Executive Committee meets, Covention Headquarters, 7:30 PM.
November 7	State Layman's League, Friendship Church, Farmville. Meal — 7:00 PM, Worship and Business — 7:45 PM.
November 17	Eastern District Layman's League, Juniper Chapel, Vanceboro. Meal — 7:00 PM, Worship and Business — 7:45 PM.
December 1	Central District Layman's League, Tarboro Church. Meal — 7:00 PM, Worship and Business — 7:45 PM.
December 4	Promotional Committee, Convention Headquarters, — 7:30 PM.

CHILDREN'S HOME

"Crossing The Threshold"

The Child Care Staff of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home participated in a workshop on campus entitled "Crossing The Threshold," Helping Adolescents in Foster Care Move Into Adulthood. The training centered around the development of children during adolescence and coping techniques for adults to help them make the transition to adult life.



Pictured is Dave Rawls, a Houseparent who was one of the facilitators for the workshop.

Become A "Friend of Children"

Many times we ask ourselves, "What can I do to help those who need someone to care?" We wonder how we can reach out to others and make a difference. We feel isolated or unsure of just how to go about acting upon our convictions of stewardship.

The "Friends of Children" program was initiated to provide funds for the adolescent program called Preparation for Independent Living. Today the program is called Preparation for Adult Living. This training focuses on the concept of preparing the adolescents on our campus for the real world. Many adolescents who leave the Home at the age of 18 go out into the world alone to survive on their own. They need many skills to help them not only survive but to be successful.

Today, this program continues to train our young people to be responsible, conscientious citizens. They learn how to open a checking account and keep up with financial obligations. They learn how to cook, clean, wash clothes, especially separating white colors from dark colors. They are taught how to change a tire, change the oil in a car, which also helps them understand the expense of owning an automobile. Job interviews and applications, hunting for housing, and comparative shopping are other practical, realistic parts of life this program allows us to teach our youth.

"Friends of Children" has made provisions for the success of this program. It continues to be a vital part of the ministry of child care at the Children's Home. We invite you to become a "Friend of Children." A monthly contribution of $20.00 can make a difference when friends pool their resources for a common goal.

The lessons we teach our young people will go with them for a lifetime. We invite you to make a difference in the life of a child. Become a "Friend of Children."

Deuteronomy 6:4–7

An Invitation

The Board of Directors invites you and your guests to our Annual Luncheon for

Friends of Children Appreciation Day

Free Will Baptist Children's Home
Whitley Center
November 22, 1997 • 12:00 NOON

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Doug Skinner
Music Provided by: Covenant
Tours of the Campus and Other Special Events

RSVP by November 14, 1997

Number of Guests in Your Group for Lunch _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Mail To:
Free Will Baptist Children's Home
PO Box 249 • Middlesex, NC 27557
(919) 235–2161

You Are Cordially Invited to Become A Friend of Children

Membership in Friends of Children program is achieved with a monthly gift of $20 or more to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Membership provides you with an opportunity to become partners and share in a sense of satisfaction with other concerned friends in ensuring the on-going ministry of "a Christian home for boys and girls."

There are three levels of monthly giving recognized within the membership of the Friends of Children program. You may choose the category which matches your resources and interest.

Cornerstone Members: $100 plus
Foundation Members: $40 – $99
Friends: $20 – $39

Children's Benefits

- A home that provides a safe and caring environment
- Love and Acceptance
- Food, Clothing, & Health Care
- Therapy
- Education
- Tutorial Program
- Extracurricular Activities
- Spiritual Guidance
- Opportunities to develop God-given abilities
- Recreational Activities
- Program that train and prepare for a successful, independent, adult life
- Socialization and interaction in an environment that encourages values, principles, and positive moral concepts.

Membership Benefits

- An attractive Friends of Children award
- Monthly news note of current activities
- Invitation to Friends of Children Appreciation Day and other special events
- Personal tours of the campus
- Annual report of your giving
- Partnership with other Friends supporting their child care ministry
- Personal satisfaction of reaching out beyond yourself and sharing your resources with children
- You are giving hope and a future to a child

Doubt and Assurance

by Janan

Valerie returned from Poland after 18 months. He is one of the many Gypsies who works there and he is a member of our youth group. It is not easy to live there, they often work 7 days a week and have hardly time to attend church worship and prayer activities. We all were happy to see him again. The first Sunday after class he came to me and asked, "Is there really a God?" In Poland he meets people like Jehovah Witnesses and other sectarian people. Something made him to doubt about the existence of God.

First I listened to him and then I began to speak to him very calmly, "If you enter a good tidy house where everything is in its place and nobody is present can you say that someone is living there or not? Of course somebody must live there because the house is kept clean. But if the house is dusty and dirty then we may assume that nobody is living in it."

I continued, "Answer now for yourself. Look to the creation, to the sky, the stars, the moon, the sun, the mountains, the land and the sea. Everything is in its place. The sky doesn't fall, the sun is in its place, the stars are mobile in the places where they were set before. Everything is in the right order. There must be **someone** and He is **God**. He is the living God, the Father of Life who listens to us, who searches for us, who forgives our sins, who provides us with strength and with faith."

After some more talks we were able to pray together before we left the room. His greenish-blue eyes were looking far and very happy. What a beautiful task is brought upon us to witness our God and Father and His special Son Jesus Christ. How strong are the powers of God to turn doubt into assurance. Praise be to our God Almighty who fills us with the Spirit of Love and understanding.



Valerie with friends Dennis and Cesgin

New Pastoral House in Mexico by the Rev. Antonio Escobar

The churches and pastors are in complete accord in their joy with the Lily of the Valley Church. On July 17, 1997, the keys to the new house were presented to Pastor Luis Esquivel Moreno. This ceremony was celebrated by Brother Harold Jones when he expressed his thrill to see the construction of the pastor's house completed.

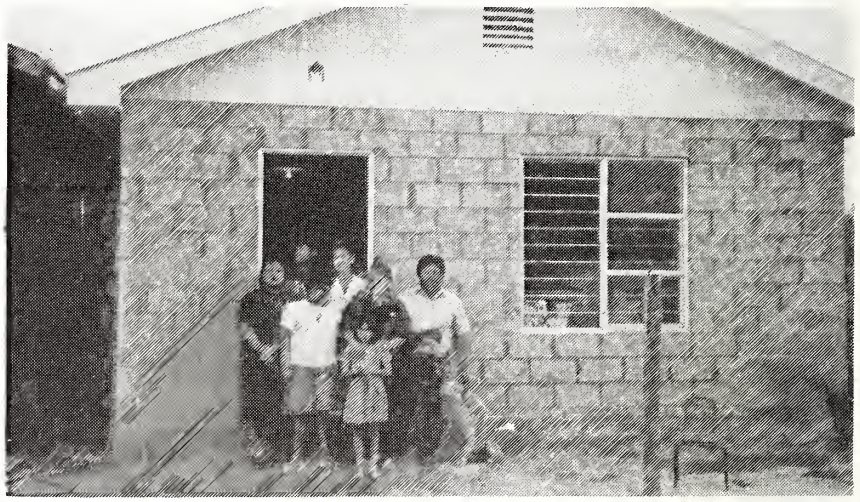
In the presence of the brethren from North Carolina, who had worked building this house, Brother Jones read to all of us from God's Word and reflecting on the blessings that God has for His people and that He can make all things possible according to His will. In his closing prayer, he thanked the Lord for those whose hearts were moved to give of their means to make this building possible, for the Short-Term Teams and others who participated in the work. We placed our hands on the building as the Rev. Jones invited us to pray and to dedicate the pastoral house to the glory of God, that His Holy Spirit would guard over the family that would live there.

Brother Luis and his wife, Karla, gave thanks to the Lord for His blessings of this house for them. Karla said to Brother Jones, "This winter my family and I will not be cold and when it rains we will not get wet." (Their former house was made of pieces of lumber and cardboard.) They are truly grateful for this house.

The churches and pastors are grateful and thank the Board of Foreign Missions, our Director, Brother Harold Jones and the Short-Term Teams. We also are truly grateful to our Sister Sandra Jones for her work with the different departments of the church. Her work has been a great blessing to the churches and young people. We want here to know that we love her very much; for we see in her a sister who loves the Lord and His work. God bless you, Sister Jones! We await your coming next year as we pray for you and those who will come with you.



Brother Harold Jones presenting the keys to the new house.



Pastor Luis, Karla, and family in front of the new Pastoral house.

Newsletter from India and Nepal by Dr. E. M. Lall

When the Gospel is preached, the love of Jesus is manifested and His presence is felt, the result is that people will make decisions for conversion. But there are some people in our country who misinterpret it as forced conversion, or conversion by fraudulent means. We reiterate that we have never fallen into that sin. Conversion, in the Christian sense, the sense in which Jesus used the term, and we have used it, cannot be forced. Men are converted by the power and grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, after earnestly desiring to be saved through repentance and faith.

Out of 18,926 being the present total membership of our church in India, 97% are converts from time to time since the formation of the church on August 6, 1975. The conversion of new believers continues in our churches since our co-workers own the evangelistic responsibility and are conscious of the Great Commandment.

Six new baptisms took place at Bareilly on August 17, 1997, of those who have experienced new life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

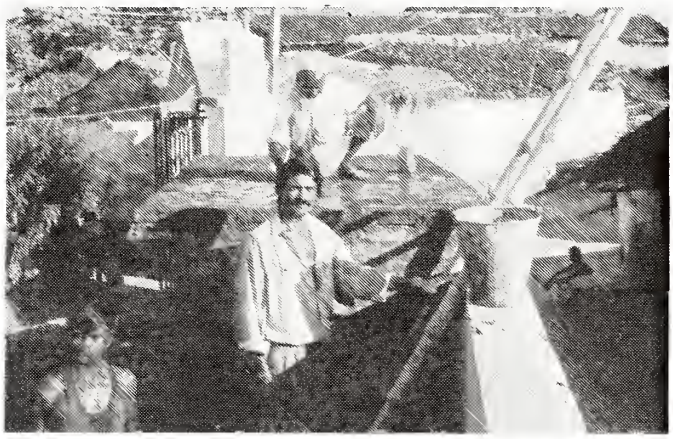
A Bible Training Program was conducted exclusively for six Nepali Deacons-designate at Bareilly from August 7–12, 1997. They were equipped with the basic fundamental of evangelization. The expenses for this program were borne by the Free Will Baptist Church at Bareilly.

We celebrated the 50th Independence Golden Anniversary on August 10, 1997, with people from all castes, i.e., Hindu, participated by the highest Government Officers. All heads were bowed and manifested the greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was the most unique program in any of

Newsletter from India and Nepal, Cont...

the churches since Independence in India.

It is a matter of pleasure to report that 'giving' by the church in India is growing to meet some of the needs of the churches. We praise the Lord for enabling us to get telephone connections at the Parsonage Bareilly church, the headquarters office and one at Field Director's residence at the cost of Rs. 9000.00 or $257.00. We recently built a room for the generator of the headquarters office at the cost of Rs. 4897.00 or $141.00. Our school at Bhikaripur did not have a toilet which was built aside in the school campus in the size of 9X5 feet with a septic tank in the size of 9X4 feet at a cost of Rs. 13,000.00 or $371.00. A new generator was installed at the Free Will Baptist Church at Bareilly after selling the old one by the congregation with some of our help costing Rs. 19,000.00 or $542.00.



Bhikaripur School toilet bing built.



Baptism at Bareilly.

We are happy to learn from some of the Pastors that their congregations and schools are preparing for self support from the next budget year. Our Bareilly church is doing very well in tithing, supporting the pastor, paying him conveyance and entertainment allowances bearing the burden of gardening, minor repairs of the church and yearly white-washing, etc.

My theme of preaching in our churches for the last six months is, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come before Him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (1 Chronicles 16:29), and Malachi 3:10). It is being well-received by our churches.

The empires of major larger missions, such as Methodist and the church of North India, are falling and negotiating with us for taking over some of their fallen churches. We are examining the prospects whether we are able to constitute our church congregations to use such properties.

The first and the last, we express our deep sense of gratitude to our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones for mobilization to "Build One For Them" in India and Nepal. Having this vision two chapels in Nepal are being constructed, a church and parsonage is being built at Rudrapur on the foot of Himalayas and a church, parsonage and an English Medium school will soon be built at Agra, the city of 'Taj Mahal'. In the absence of church buildings our people gather together in open places for worship and other religious activities which is in various sense is inconvenient and not helpful to the growth of church life. This is definitely a permanent structure given to the Free Will Baptist denomination in these two countries where our churches will continue as long as the World lives.



Independence Anniversary Celebration



Generator room built at Headquarter's office — Bareilly.

First Pastors' and Wives' Seminar by Lewis Forsythe

God answered prayers in many, many ways.

I came from the little town of Newport, NC, and for the most of my life, I hardly went out of Carteret Country. I never really thought God would use me too far away from there — especially not somewhere like California! But, our God is awesome, and He thinks much bigger than we do.

When my wife and I were asked if we would consider working with the Lao Evangelical and the Cambodian Church, our answer was that we would pray about it. To be honest, both of us felt God's leading from the very beginning. But, we gave it a few days of prayer, and God gave us the confirmations we were looking for. So we signed up to work with Home Missions. Our church family, Stoney Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Middlesex, agreed to support us both with prayer and financially.

Flying is not really my thing either! However, it was the smoothest flight I've ever been on, both going to California and coming back home. Once we arrived in Los Angeles, we drove to Fresno. Let me tell you something, traveling with Brother David Charles Hansley and Brother Graham Lane is an experience in itself! Those two keep something going all the time — kind of reminded me of the three stooges!

Anyway, our workshops and seminars started the day after we arrived. The H'mong people were very loving and appreciative. We had morning and afternoon sessions. I also found these men, mostly all pastors and a few lay people, so hungry for knowledge of the Word of God. These men have not had many of the resources that we have available to us. It made me appreciate many of the things I often take for granted. It was such a blessing to share with those brothers in Christ.



The Rev. Tu Moua, President of Lao Evangelical Church; Mrs. Tu Moua; the Rev. and Mrs. Lewis Forsythe.

I really have no concept of what these brothers have had to go through for their faith as Christians. They really don't talk about it too much. It is probably something that they would rather forget. To flee for your life and leave your homeland, and I'm sure loved ones, must have been terrible. It made me appreciate and respect these people so much.

The seminars were a joy to teach. God answered prayers in many, many ways. I was privileged to preach the Sunday morning service at the Lao Evangelical Church, and 16 people came forward to accept Christ. Praise God! All in all, everything went so perfectly, only God could have planned it.

We held the Wednesday evening service with the Cambodian Church in Moreno Valley. I was amazed by the kindred spirit, even though there were cultural and language differences. It was different working with an interpreter. The Cambodian lady that interpreted for me could speak 13 different languages, I believe. I was so blessed to be used by God to share with these, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When it was time to leave, I found we had already gotten attached to many of these people. Lord willing, we will meet again, here, there, or in the air, praise God!

Let me share another time God answered prayers for us while we were there. We couldn't find a room in Los Angeles. I don't remember how many hotels we tried. We came to one and Brother David said that this was the last one that he knew of. He and Brother Graham went inside, but not before saying, "Pray while we're inside that two rooms would be available." Guess what! Only one room was available, but the phone rang while Brother David and Brother Graham were standing there, and someone canceled. There were our two rooms! God is awesome!

In closing, I would like to thank my church family at Stoney Hill, Middlesex, for supporting my wife and me in making this trip. In doing so, they became partners with us in the work in California, and I know that God will richly bless them for it.

The Wives' Conference by Shirley Forsythe



Ladies that attended the Conference.

From the very first time the Rev. David Hansley talked to us about traveling to California with him and the Rev. Graham Lane, to work the Lao Evangelical Church, I became excited. As my husband, Lewis, and I talked and prayed about it, the more excited I became. To be a part of what God and Home Missions was doing, in an active way, not just in monetary support or prayer support, was an honor and a privilege, both to serve my Lord, Home Missions and the Lao Evangelical Church.

I was to hold a two-day workshop in Fresno for the pastor's wives, and my husband would be working with the pastors. My main topic was to be on prayer. I had to lean heavily on the Lord in prayer to prepare. I was so concerned about doing or saying something wrong and spoiling the first-time Pastors' and Wives' Conference. The Lord laid it on my heart not to worry about the culture differences, or the language barriers, but to just be myself an share from my heart. And that is just what I did.

The first day there, I was introduced to my translator, Harold. He was so excited about his Jesus and about being involved with the workshops. I had 5 ladies Friday morning, who were a little shy at first. But, as I began to share with them, they started asking questions and sharing with me. That afternoon, I had about 10 ladies — word was spreading! At the end of the first day they told Harold they would like to have a woman translator for Saturday because they had questions they didn't want to ask through him. I really prayed hard that night that the Lord would give me the answers to their questions, and, of course, He did. Saturday morning, I had 18 ladies and a sweet lady named Nicole who translated. Again, I taught and they shared and asked questions. It was such a blessing to me. Even though I couldn't understand what they were saying to the translator, I could see and feel their emotions. At one point, a lady was crying as she talked to the translator. All I knew to do was to go over and hug her, because as I told her, I couldn't understand what she was saying, but my heart could feel her heartache. It was such a very special and sweet time.

I had to lean heavily on the Lord in prayer to prepare.

I was told we would end at lunch time because someone was coming to speak to them as a group. Next thing I know, the Rev. Mauata was coming in with one of the ladies saying, "You can have the ladies all day!" I had 22 that afternoon. I shared with them about witnessing to the lost and being encouragers to each other and to the members of their churches. We felt as if we had known each other much longer than 2 days. The Lord had prepared their hearts and mine and there were no barriers for any of us. They were so appreciative that I had come all that way to teach them. They said they would never forget the things that I had taught them. I felt so blessed to have been used by God to share with them.

My next challenge — and even bigger one to me — was to speak to the Pastors and their wives in an evening service. This had *never* been done before! Women in their culture are not allowed to speak in church. Once again I was calling on the Lord to really direct my thoughts and words so that I would not say anything that would make this the first and last time a woman



Harold and Nicole with the Rev. Lewis and Shirley Forsythe.



Praye

Thing

SUN	MON	TUE	W
26	**27**	**28**	**29**
2	**3** Johnston-Wake Counties Dinner, Everett Chapel Church, 7:00 PM	**4** Craven County Dinner, West Craven Middle School, 7:00 PM	**5** 10:30 AM
9	**10**	**11** Foreign Missions Board Meeting Campus Visitation Day, MOC Cape Fear Conference, Wooten's Chapel *Veterans Day*	**12** **Mount Olive College Registration**
16	**17** Eastern District Layman's League, Juniper Chapel, Vancebore, 7:45 PM Wilson County Dinner, Beddington High School, 7:00 PM	**18** Pitt County Dinner, J.H. Rose High School, 7:00 PM FWB Press Board	**19**
23 **Homecoming at MOC** **30** MOC Scholarship Day	**24** NC Symphony's "Christmas Pops" Concert, College Hall, 7:30 PM	**25** MOC Board of Trustees Founder's Day Worship Service,Rodger's Chapel, 11:00 AM	**26**

cerns _____

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	THU	FRI	SAT
	30	***31***	***1*** Duplin County Dinner, Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, 6:00 PM
h Finance Board	***6*** Central Conference Executive Committee Meeting, Layman's League, Convention Headquarters, 7:30 PM	***7*** State Layman's League, Friendship Church, Farmville, 7:45 PM	***8*** Carteret County Dinner, West Carteret High School, 6:00 PM
	13 Washington, Martin, Tyrrell, and Pasquotank Counties Dinner, Union Chapel Fellowship Hall, 7:30 PM	***14***	***15*** Shady Grove FWB Church Banquet, Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, 7:00 PM
pring 1998 — November 10–14			
	20 7:30 PM Children's Home Board Meeting Sampson, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties Dinner, Clinton-Sampson Agri-Civic Center, 7:00 PM	***21***	***22*** Friends of Children Appreciation Day, FWB Children's Home, 12:00 Noon **Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament • Mount Olive College** **Homecoming at Mount Olive College**
	27 Free Will Baptist Press Closed Bible and Bookstores Closed Headquarters Closed MOC Closed *Thanksgiving*	***28*** Bible and Bookstores Re-open Headquarters Closed MOC No Classes	***29*** Cragmont Board Meeting at Cragmont

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

The Wives' Conference, Cont....

spoke. I was asked to speak on the role of pastors' wives' in the church. As I spoke, believe it or not, the men's heads were nodding affirmatively at what I was saying. Thank you, Lord, I kept thinking as I spoke. Afterwards, several told me that I said things that had needed saying for a long time. Our God is so awesome, always giving us what we need when we need it.

The next morning, I joined the ladies Sunday school class, thinking I was going to get to relax and just listen. Not so! After they did their attendance and offering, they asked me to teach them some more. I was totally unprepared for this, but they were so excited to hear more, I thought, "Lord, here I am again, asking you to give me the words to say." Again, He gave me what I needed and I shared with them about their own personal walk with the Lord, studying His Word and keeping a prayer journal.

After Sunday school, they wanted me to sing in their choir during the service. I had taught them to sing "Praise God" to the tune of "Amazing Grace," so we sang "Amazing Grace," they in their language and I in mine. At the end, we all sang "Praise God" together in English. It was really a special time. They love the Lord and love to sing His praises. They don't worry about time, either. Their worship service started at 10:00 and ended around 12:00. And you know what? We didn't think about the time because we were so enjoying worshiping and praising God.

I really didn't want to see our time end with them, and it was really hard to leave. They don't have much in the way of material things, but they wanted to give me something to thank me. They made me a frame of material and lace which was beautiful. They also gave me a beautiful hand-stitched fanny pack. They are things that I will treasure forever. I really have a burden in my heart for these dear ladies. I have corresponded with several since I have been home and we are working on a pen pal program between the Ladies' Auxiliary of my church and the ladies' group of their church. I pray that the Lord will continue to use me to help in any way that I can to help my sisters in California. They are such a blessing to me, and I love them as my sisters in Christ.

I thank David Hansley and Graham Lane for giving me this experience and opportunity to share God's love and teachings with these precious ladies. Brother David and Brother Graham really took good care of us during all our travels and I will always be thankful for that. Last, but not least, I thank our wonderful church family at Stoney Hill for supporting us both financially and prayerfully through our entire trip. Without them it would not have been possible. I pray that God will allow us to go back again next year and share more with our California family.

Youth Summer Conferences at Cragmont



Young Peoples' Bible Conferece

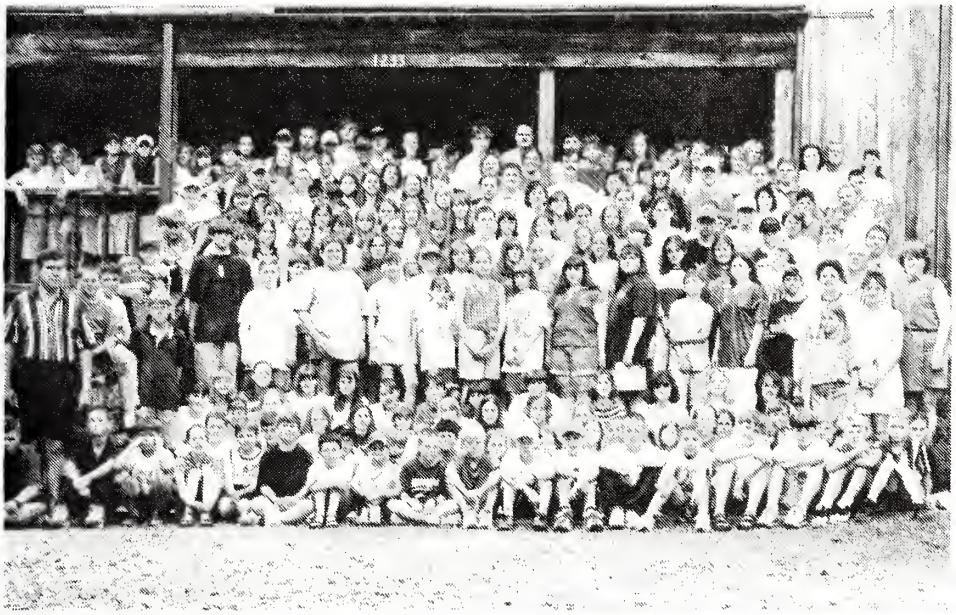


Youth Frontier Conference YFA



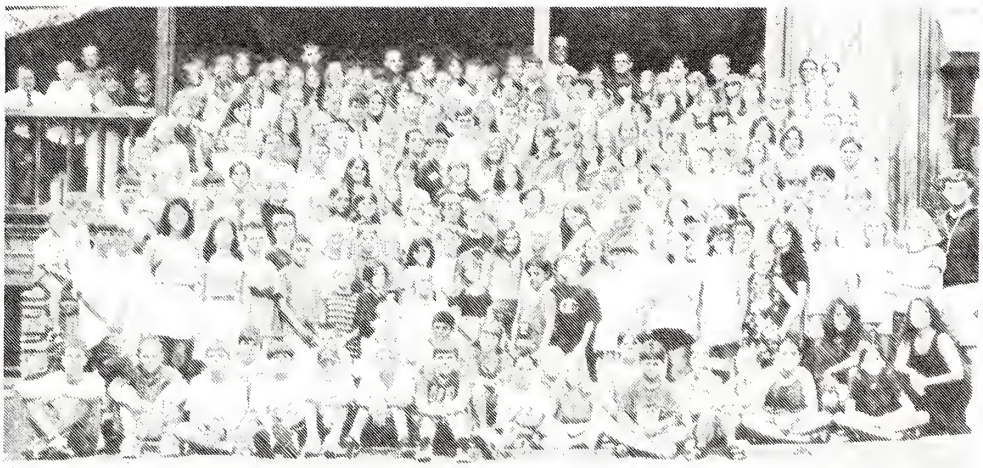
Youth Frontier Conference AFC

Youth Summer Conferences at Cragmont



< Christian Cadet Conference

General Youth Conference I >





< General Youth Conference II

Church Property Insurance

by Roger Hill, CPCU, AU • Portfolio Manager, Nationwide Insurance • Board of Directors, Church Finance Association

While the church is actually a group of believers united together for the cause of Christ, we most typically associate our church with a building. In some instances the building was constructed by the members who got together when the crops were in and built the building with the sweat and toil of their own hands. From cutting the timber to finishing the pews the work proceeded until the building was complete. There are very few congregations that have the time or expertise to duplicate that work today.

For that reason the building represents a significant financial investment that most congregations would be hardpressed to replace at today's cost. For that reason we insure our buildings against loss with the purchase of property and casualty insurance. Insurance is bought with the hope that we will never have to use it, so the temptation exists to buy the least expensive coverage available.

However, a few dollars can make a world of difference when it comes to a claim. What follows is not meant to be a comprehensive guide but a review for asking questions and making certain that you have the best coverage for the money. Good stewardship does not mean having the cheapest coverage but having the most coverage for the money.

Good stewardship does not mean having the cheapest coverage but having the most coverage for the money.

Commerical property insurance can be provided on three different forms: basic, broad and special ("All Risk"). Basic coverage is the least costly of the 3 options. It also provides only the most basic coverage resulting from loss by the 11 perils specifically named within the policy. *They are as follows:*

Fire, Lightning, Explosion, Smoke, Aircraft/vehicles, Windstorm/hail, Riot, Sinkhole, Vandalism, Sprinkler leakage, and Volcanic action.

The broad coverage option also provides coverage for the perils specifically named within the policy, and it adds 5 additional covered causes of loss for a slightly greater premium than the basic coverage option. *They are as follows:*

Glass breakage; Falling objects; Weight of ice, sleet, or snow; Water damage (not flood); and Collapse.

The church building is dedicated to our Saviour and we must be good stewards with regards to adequate coverage on His property.

The final option is the special form. Unlike the broad and basic options that cover only those options named within the policy, the special form provides coverage for all causes of loss unless they are specifically excluded within the policy. It is the most comprehensive of all the policies and, the most expensive. None of the options named above provide for loss due to flood. This is a special coverage that must be purchased separately. After Hurricane Fran last year, many of our churches in the east can attest to the extensive damage caused by flooding. Often this coverage is overlooked, even by those churches within a designated flood hazard area.

Finally, there is an option in every policy that determines how a loss will be paid by the insuring company. The two most common options are replacement cost and actual cash value (ACV). The replacement cost provision allows for full replacement of the damaged property, subject to the limits of the policy and the deductible.

The actual cash value provision allows payment for only the value of the property after depreciation, subject to the policy limit and the deductible. For example, a church loses its ten-year-old roof in a windstorm. The cost to replace the roof is $10,000. Under the replacement options the church would receive $10,000 less their deductible. Under the ACV option, you are limited to the actual value of the property after depreciation subject to deductibles and limits of coverage. Using the same example of the $10,000 roof which is 10 years old it may only have 10 years remaining before it has to be replaced. Therefore, the company would pay the church $5,000 less their deductible. ($10,000 to replace x 50% depreciation less the deductible.)

The most important consideration is that our churches need to review their insurance plan with their agent on a regular basis. Make sure that your church has adequate coverage on their property. The church building is dedicated to our Saviour and we must be good stewards with regard to adequate coverage on His property.

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Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

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☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months *(Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)*

PS Form 3526, September 1995 *(See Instructions on Reverse)*

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers

1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
6. Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

PS Form 3526, September 1995 (Reverse)

Carroll Hawkins Completes Ten Years as Press Board Chairman

On September 23, 1997, Mr. Carroll Hawkins was presented a plaque in recognition of his ten years of service to the Free Will Baptist Press as chairman of the Board of Directors. The presentation was made by Cliff Gray, Director.



Cliff Gray (left) presenting plaque to Carroll Hawkins.

Succeeding Mr. Hawkins as chairman is the Rev. Billy Hardee, who has served on the Board for a number of years.



The Rev. Billy Hardee, new chairman, with Carroll Hawkins the former chairman.

"Five Star" Homecoming Weekend set for November 21–23



Dr. J. William Byrd
President of Mount Olive College

Alumni will gather to rekindle friendships, see how the College has grown, get reconnected, and just have fun. That's the plan, according to Mrs. Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, and the planning committee of 34 alumni.

Alumni and friends are being invited to return to their alma mater in what is the largest and most diligently planned alumni homecoming event in the Mount Olive College's history. Activities start Friday, November 21, at noon with an alumni golf tournament with PGA Pro Clarence Rose and run non-stop with something for everyone until a buffet lunch on Sunday.

A major event of the weekend is the 32nd Annual Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament pitting the Trojans against North Greenville College, Wingate University and Barton College. The Trojans play North Greenville at 8:00 PM Friday night, and then winners meet Saturday at 8:00 PM with the consolation game preceding at 6:00 PM.

"I can't think of a better time to break ground for this Almni Cross Walk than during Homcomeing Weekend."

Also on the menu are a 3-km run and a 2-km walk; reunions for MOC classes of `57, `67, `77, `87, and `97; club reunions of Phi Beta Lambda, Henderson Science Club, the English Society, Kappa Chi; campus tours; reception, lunch, and dinner; a ground breaking; student art and music presentations; a basketball scrimmage between the Lady Trojans and alumnae, and a Sunday worship service.

The Campus Bookstore will be open on Friday until 5:00 PM and on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

During a buffet luncheon on Saturday beginning at 11:30 AM, Dr. J. William Byrd will present the State of the College. Also, alumni board and officers will be installed and distinguished alumni will be recognized. And finally, the Mount Olive College Singers and a new contemporary Christian music group, Free Spirit, will perform.

Following the luncheon at 1:30 PM, a ground breaking ceremony for the Alumni Cross Walk will take place on the lawn in front of College Hall and the Murphy Regional Center.

The Alumni Cross Walk will be a landscaped garden with a garden house and walkways. The garden house will be at the center of intersecting brick walkways in the shape of a Celtic cross. The walkway bricks are the actual bricks from College's old school on Breazeale Avenue, and the cornerstone and bell from the school will be built into a pedestal in the garden house.

"The purpose of the Cross Walk is to form a connection between the present and past," according to Dr. Byrd. "The old school building holds meaning for many people. Before it belonged to the College, it was a public school for many of us who grew-up in Mount Olive. And after the College purchased the building in 1953, it was the center of student life for many years.

Byrd said that the Cross Walk will inspire present students and alumni to maintain a life-long relationship with their alma meter.

"I can't think of a better time to break ground for this Alumni Cross Walk than during Homecoming Weekend," he said.

Postcard invitations and an eight panel mailer detailing the events and containing a reservation form has been mailed to all known alumni with "good" addresses on file in the Alumni Relations office, according to Riley. Anyone who has not received a "Five Star Alumni Weekend" mailer should call her at 919–658–2502.

"We are rolling out the red carpet like never before," Riley said. "We really want alums to come and get reacquainted with old friends, classmates, and their college."

EVENTS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Sat., Nov. 1	Duplin County Church Dinner, Murphy Regional Center, 6:00 PM.
Tues., Nov. 11	Visitation Day for Prospective Freshmen, College Hall, beginning with registration 9:15 AM – 10:00 AM and running all day.
Sat., Nov. 15	Shady Grove FWB Church Banquet, Murphy Regional Center, 7:00 PM.
Fri.–Sat., Nov. 21–22	Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament, College Hall, Saturday & Sunday games at 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM.
Fri.–Sun., Nov. 21–23	Alumni Homecoming Weekend, Mount Olive College Campus.
Mon., Nov. 24	North Carolina Symphony's "Christmas Pops" Concert, College Hall, 7:30 PM.
Tue., Nov. 25	Founders Day Worship Service, Rodgers Chapel, 11:00 AM.

Campus Visitation Day November 11

High School juniors and seniors are invited to Campus Visitation Day at Mount Olive College on Tuesday, November 11, beginning with registration in College Hall between 9:15 AM and 10:00 AM. Interested students and parents should contact the Admissions Office (800–653–0854) if you plan to attend.

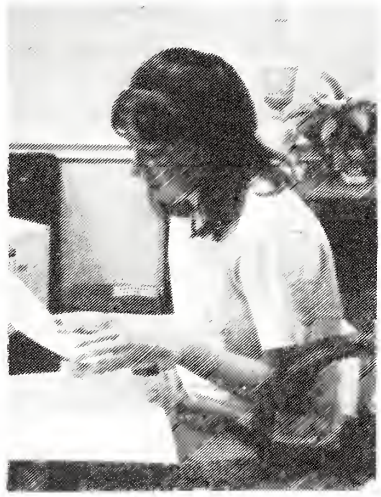
Activities include:

- A tour of the campus with student guides
- A discussion of academic life with a faculty member
- Review of Admissions and Financial Aid procedures
- Lunch with students and faculty
- Entertainment by the Mount Olive College Singers
- A chance to browse through the College Bookstore
- Auditions for choral and piano scholarships
- Visits with coaches and information on NCAA eligibility
- An opportunity to present a portfolio to members of the Art Department
- An opportunity to talk about Career Development.

Don't miss this opportunity! It is a good time to get your questions answered.

Warrick Speaks to Freshmen About "The Game of Life"

In early October the Rev. Al Warrick was on-campus and spoke with freshmen seminar students. His talk was built around the word GAME — G for givers; A for accountability; M for mental attitude; and E for enthusiasm. Here is one student's reaction:



Alison Williams

On Thursday, October 2, Mr. Al Warrick spoke to freshmen seminar classes in Rodgers Chapel. He is an alumnus of the College and a former basketball coach of the men's and women's teams.

He spoke about motivation and how important it is. He told us that our attitude is everything and it affects our determination. He went on to say that we need to be responsible and enthusiastic about life, college, and everything.

Mr. Warrick told some stories that illustrated what he was talking about. He concluded by saying that we are all winners and to be grateful for what we have!

I enjoyed listening to Al Warrick. I think that he showed all the freshmen that motivation, responsibility, and being positive are essential. He was inspirational and realistic in what he said.

Alison Williams, Black Mountain, NC

College Honors Bridge Builders

A record number, 590, filled the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College Saturday evening. The dinner and entertainment was the College's way of thanking contributors from Free Will Baptist churches throughout eastern North Carolina.

The annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner honored 1,599 individuals and church organizations who contributed $100 or more during 1996. Gifts from Bridge Builders totaled $255,939.00 last year.

Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, director of church support, organized the dinner and served as mistress of ceremonies.

"We appreciate your support," Ackiss said. "This dinner is our way of saying how much we appreciate your support."

Ackiss said that the best way the College could demonstrate its support was to present students who benefit from the church support. Ackiss introduced two choral groups, the Mount Olive College Concert Choir and Free Spirit, which presented a combined program of classic Christian music. Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music directed both groups. The 35-minute program finished to a standing ovation and an encore.

Dr. J. William Byrd, College President, spoke briefly, also thanking the Bridge Builders for supporting the College.

"You honor us by your presence," Byrd said. "We appreciate your support."

He said the Free Will Baptists have stood by the College all the way, rallying with financial assistance in times of need and exalting in times of celebration.

Cont. on next page

College Honors Bridge Builders, Cont.

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists chartered Mount Olive College in 1951.

"We operate with great confidence knowing that we can depend on you for financial support and prayers," Byrd said.

The vehicle for support to the College each year is a series of 17 county dinners held during the fall months. Free Will Baptist churches within designated counties join together and stage dinners for the single purpose of generating financial gifts for the College. Saturday's dinner honored contributors from last year.

The 1997 round of county church dinners began on October 4 with the first dinner for FWB churches in Lenoir County at Kinston High School.

As a gesture of appreciation for a financial gift to the College of $100 or more, Dr. Pepper Worthington, editor of the Mount Olive College Press, announced that a daily devotional book, *New Devotions* by Mrs. Ruth Lancaster Warrick, would be presented to Bridge Builders. Mrs. Warrick is a member of the Johnston Union Free Will Baptist Church near Smithfield.

Mrs. Wilma Jean Wise, a member of Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Dunn, provided dinner music. Mrs. Virginia Yawn and ladies from the Union Grove FWB Church in Fremont made the table arrangements. Students ambassadors from the College worked as waiters and waitresses, and members of the staff and faculty served as table hosts and hostesses.

Scenes from the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner













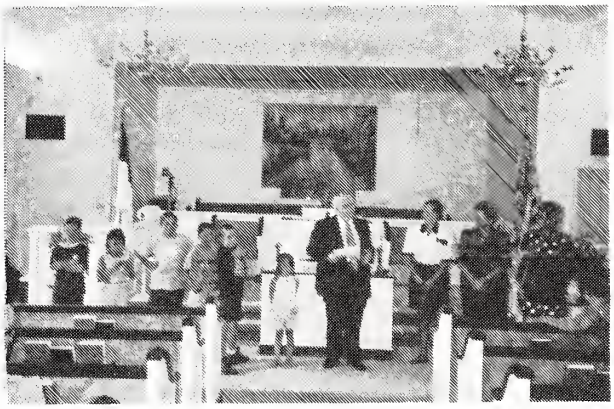




A Week at Camp Vandemere

Submitted by Teena Taylor

On June 30, 1997 the Pioneer Club of Cabin Free Will Baptist Church and their leaders gathered at church around 8:00 AM to depart for a week at Camp Vandemere under the direction of the Rev. Ralph Sumner, pastor. The children as well as the adults went to camp to celebrate God through Bible study, music, games and just plain fun. At camp our youth had time to grow in Christ, meet new people and learn new things. On July 3, many youth that attended camp made their first professions of faith by the Cross of Camp Vandemere. Many adults and youth rededicated their lives to serving the Lord. The following names were among the ones who dedicated their lives and since then have been baptized: Harold Jones, Ore Futrell, Jordan Maredy, Emily Maredy, Michael Smith, Joseph Lanier, and Chris Lanier. A special thank you to Ann Miller, Lisa Jones, Lisa Futrell, Gwen Baker, Chris Lanier, and Kyle Lanier for going to camp, teaching classes, and being special friends for the children.



Reaping the Harvest from Camp Vandemere.

35 Years of Service

Submitted by Mary Lou Abbott

The Adult Sunday Class of Hugo Free Will Baptist Church, Grifton, NC, recently honored Mrs. Bertha Harris with a surprise dinner in the church fellowship hall. They presented her with a gift and a plaque. Mrs. Bertha taught the Adult Sunday School Class from 1962 until 1997. She was an inspiration to the many members who were in the class.

She has also been the Bible School Coordinator for several years. She was one of the first Woman's Auxiliary members to receive the Lifetime Membership Award. Among the many other things Mrs. Bertha does for Hugo Church is helping to keep it decorated with the beautiful flowers she grows in her garden.



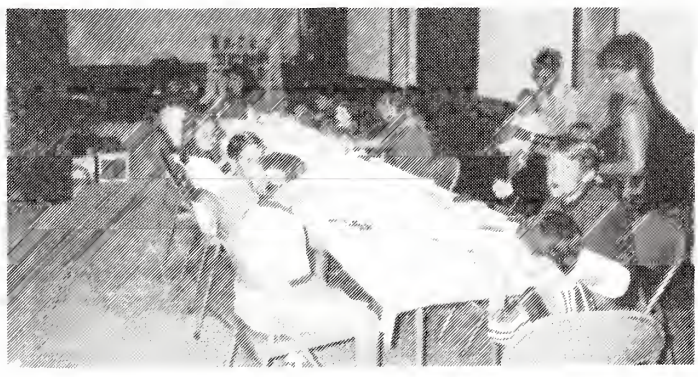
J.C. Dudly, Adult Class President, presenting the gift to Mrs. Bertha Harris.

Living Waters Youth Meeting Begun

Submitted by Pastor Danny M. Smith

During the summer months, Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, initiated a monthly youth meeting built around the theme W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do?). So far we have served 48 hot dogs, 56 slices of pizza, and almost not enough tacos to an average attendance of 23 area youths. But we have also served the gospel message. At our second meeting Eric Trent, the devotional leader, challenged our group with yet a fresher meaning to W.W.J.D. Try this: Walking With Jesus Daily.





Powhatan Holds Homecoming Service

by Rita Otto Jones

Homecoming was held at Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, on September 21. Preparations for homecoming and revival included a nightly prayer vigil the previous week and a Saturday of cleaning, mowing, and organizing. The church was filled during the service with extra chairs being brought out to line the aisles.

The Rev. Jim Bogle, pastor at Powhatan, introduced the Rev. Jerry Stephenson who brought the morning message. It was indeed a "homecoming" for him, having received his calling at Powhatan.

An old-fashioned dinner on the grounds was enjoyed following the church service. The weather was beautiful with the first hint of fall coolness in the air.

A memorial service sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary was held after the meal to remember church members who had passed away during the past year. "New Sound" opened the service with the song "Precious Memories."

The members who had gone on the their final rest was Bessie Mills, Marvin Johnson, Millard Benson, Mickey Benson, Ruth Casper, and Danny Jones. Memories of their loved ones were shared by some of the family members present. Andrew, grandson of Marvin Johnson, told how his grandfather was a cut-up. He related that his grandmother asked that she be given flowers while she was alive, not after she passed on. Marvin cut down a dogwood tree (all he found that was blooming) and gave it to her in her bed. All you saw was the flowers, limbs, and her eyes shining through the boughs!

Millard Benson's daughter, Gail, remembered the fun times she spent as the only daughter in the family. Her father retired with 33 years state service from Dorothea Dix and umpired in the Clayton area for many years. She will always cherish the times she shared at games with her Dad.

Ada Jones Kittle told of her oldest sister, Ruth Casper, who also retired from Dorothea Dix with 33 years of service. She had one son, Ronnie, and two grandchildren. She had lived in Raleigh but returned to Clayton after her husband's death. Ada recalled "pea-shellings" where Ruth had visited with her and Martha. A family member commented that Johnston County had lost its best "pea-sheller" when they were told of Ruth's death.

The Rev. John Harris followed Mrs. Kittle with comments about his stepfather, Danny Jones, who passed away in June. He said he had told of Danny's many pranks in the eulogy at the funeral but that he failed to mention that Danny was born on April Fool's Day! He said that towards the end of Danny's life, he tried to emphasize the importance of family and apologize for anytime he might have been too harsh or strict. The Rev. Harris advised the congregation to spend time with loved ones, encourage children, make family a priority. He ended by saying divorce was a sad fact of life in today's world; but that as a result of divorce, he had been given a stepfather and new, loving family that was very special to him and would always be *his family.*

A singspiration followed the Memorial Service with several individuals and groups performing. Barbara Barbour (choir director at Powhatan and member of the group "The Spirituals") took a request to do her special "yodeling" for God, showing the joy Christians feel in fellowship and song. The day ended with prayer for the coming revival, and a thank-you for the wonderful day we had shared.

A week-long revival followed: and on Sunday, September 28, a baptism service was held. Several of the youth of the church were baptized. Two parents were baptized a second time with their children. Baptized were Chris, Lori, Clay, and Kelsey Coats; Kristen and Summer Davis; Britany and Ashley Gordan; and Roberta Widhalm. Pray for their Christian growth. Also, continue to remember Vicky Bagley. She is undergoing chemo again for her cancer.

Round-up Day at Holly Springs

On September 21, Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Newport held its first annual Round-up Day to "round-up" everyone back to Sunday school from summer vacation. Sunday school attendance totaled 160.

Members dressed as cowboys and Indians for the event that started with Sunday school. After the morning service, everyone enjoyed a pig picking and barbecued chicken with all the trimmings. Afternoon activities included kickball and a hayride.

Pastor Ray Conner was the sheriff, and he and his deputies "locked up" folks in the Holly Springs jail until they made "bail" with a donation to the India Church Project. At 3:00 PM the New Horizon Quartet sang. Round-up Day ended with homemade ice cream and desserts.



Pastor Ray Conner, who was the sheriff for Round-up Day, smiles from the wrong side of the bars.

Second Union Sunday School Convention of the Central Conference

The Second Union Sunday School Convention of the Central Conference will meet at the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church at 915 East Cooper Street in Winterville on fifth Sunday, Novembr 30, 1997, at 3:00 PM. The Rev. Michael Ledbetter will be the speaker. All Sunday school superintendents and assistants, teachers and assistant teachers, and anyone else who will, are requested to attend.

The Rev. Tom Miller
and Members of
Hugo
Free Will Baptist Church
Route 2
Grifton, North Carolina
Invite
all former members and friends to join us in Worship on Sunday, December 7, 1997 at 11:00 AM to celebrate our 100th Anniversary

PASTOR NEEDED

The Davis Church,
Carteret County,
is looking for a Pastor.
Anyone interested
may call or write:
Sarah Styron
Post Office Box 28
Davis, NC 28524
(919) 729–9511

Project Solution Task Force Committee Report to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist, September 17, 1997

Project Solution began more than three years ago as a self study of our denomination. Initially it involved the work of a Task-Force Committee consisting of the Convention officers plus eight others who agreed to serve at the request of the Convention's Executive Administrator. Ministry directors were also included in the process. The original Task-Force Committee met in April of 1994 for a brainstorming session to determine the strengths and weaknesses of our churches, ministers, and ministries. The committee knew from the beginning that the task was monumental, and much time and effort would be required in this Project. During the time, the Task Force developed a Mission Statement, a five-year theme, and a survey form. The survey form when completed and returned revealed the basic weaknesses and strengths of our denomination.

During this past year, the Task Force was enlarged to include representatives of our ministries, conferences, and other phases of our work of our denomination. This enlarged Task Force has focused on the "solution" phase of the Project and ultimately developed a Vision Statement, as follows:

"In an effort to fulfill the mission of the Original Free Will Baptist Church for the next five church years (1997–98 through 2001–02) we will focus on challenging Original Free Will Baptists to commit to the true meaning of church membership as reflected in our Church Covenant; to practice evangelism as mandated by the Scriptures and our love and compassion for people; and challenge Original Free Will Baptists to increase the number of persons doing ministry as mandated by the words and deeds of the servant, Jesus Christ."

In recent meetings discussion has focused on the implementation and fulfillment of the Vision Statement and moving in the "solution" phase of the Project. It is the goal of the Task Force to finalize this work during the coming year and present it to next year's Convention. This does not mean, however, that Project Solution will conclude at that time.

We wish to thank those who have faithfully served on the Task Force, and have pledged to continue to do so.

Facts to Strengthen Your Sunday School

90% of church attenders say attending Sunday school has changed their lives.

A positive impact on a student's spiritual life. Of those who attended Sunday school every Sunday, 90% indicated that Sunday school has had a "tremendous positive impact" or "positive impact" on their spiritual lives in the last 12 months. For those attending once a month or less, 44% indicated that Sunday school had a positive impact on their spiritual lives.

A positive impact on families. Of those attending Sunday school every Sunday, 86% said that Sunday school had made a positive change in the behavior of at least one of their immediate family members. Nearly one-half (49%) indicated that Sunday school has caused one or more of the respondent's immediate family members to increase their personal devotions.

Helpful Idea: Emphasize the benefits of regular Sunday school attendance.

Church attenders want Sunday school to apply more directly to their lives.

Of those who attend church once a month or less, seven in 10 (70%) indicated that more people would be more involved in Sunday school if people could apply the lessons more directly to their lives. Those who attend every Sunday felt strongly as well, with 46% agreeing.

Helpful Idea: <u>Every</u> Sunday school lesson should lead a student to a personal application of a Bible truth.

Being a well-prepared teacher encourages attendance and involvement.

Of those who attend church once a month or less, one in three, or 35%, indicated that more people would attend Sunday school if people could study under a more prepared teacher. For those that attend Sunday school every week, only 15% agreed.

Helpful Idea: Encourage and help teachers to be a "more prepared" teacher.

The Sunday school class format influences student impact.

One-third (33%) of the sample church attenders indicated that more people would be more involved in Sunday school if people were not intimidated to speak in class. In addition, four out of five (81%) of church attenders "agreed," or "strongly agreed" that Sunday school classes for adults should be in a discussion format, compared to just 14% that felt Sunday school classes for adults should be in a lecture format.

Helpful Ideas: To increase growth and break down intimidation, adult Sunday school should be interactive, in a discussion format.

Excerpt from "The Impact of Sunday School: 1997 National Survey Results," published by David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.

Are YOU willing to help make your

Spend time in prayer

Use your talents

Never give up!

Dare to reach out

Ask your neighbors

Yearn to make a difference

Spend time in prayer

Call absentees

Have faith in God's Word

Open your heart

Offer words of praise

Love God and others

GROW?

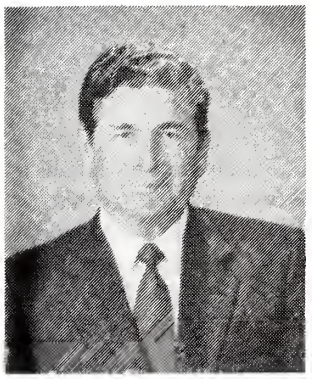
Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

The Golden Years

Gratitude — The Crown Jewel of Human Virtues

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me" (Psalm 116:12 NIV).



Dr. W. Burkette Raper

"God has two dwellings: one in heaven, and the other is a meek and thankful heart" (Izaak Walton).

1997 (Vol. 3, No. 1)
W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

Think about the most pleasant people you know, those whose company you truly enjoy: are these not graceful people whose demeanor is characterized by gratitude? Now, think about the people whose company you enjoy least: are they not self-centered people who are given to complaining and to criticism of others?

We have all experienced that quality of life in grateful people which sets them apart and endears our relationship with them.

On Being Thankful

Wherever we are on the journey of life, we did not get there solely on our own.

Our very existence is a gift which came from beyond ourselves. We did not bring about our own creation nor did we select the parents who gave us birth. The original state of our health, our physical features, our race, nationality and gender were not the results of decisions we made. The home environment in which we were reared, the values by which we were nurtured, and the educational, financial, moral and social status of our parents were not of our making.

Fortunately, life has been good to most of us, especially to those who live in America and more especially to those who have lived long enough to become senior citizens. We are among the most blessed people on earth and we live at the best time in the long history of the human race. Yes, we all have problems, whether health related, financial, or broken relationships, but beyond these adversities are blessings which far outweigh our merits.

On Being Thankful to God

One of the epic events in American history was the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock in 1621. The event was characterized not so much by what the pilgrims had as by their spirit of gratitude. No sooner had they landed in the cold winter of 1620, than a "great sickness" set in. Of 102 passengers on the Mayflower, by spring more than one-half had been buried in unmarked graves. Faced with starvation, they fished, hunted, and planted corn, and at the time of harvest they gave thanks. By standards of today they were poor and lived in substandard housing, but they survived because they were thankful for what they had rather than complained about what they did not have.

What was true at Plymouth Rock is also true today: whether or not we are grateful depends not so much upon what we have as it does upon our inner spirit. Gratitude helps us to make the most of our opportunities and benefits while complaining keeps us from enjoying even what we have.

For the pilgrims, thanksgiving was rooted in their gratitude to God for his providential care and guidance. They believed God had done for them what they could not do for themselves — he had preserved their lives and given them hope for the future. And not withstanding all their hardships and adversities, they were grateful.

The stewardship of life begins with the recognition that all we are and have is a trust from God.

On Being Thankful To Others

Thanksgiving is more than a seasonal observance — it is a pervasive and transcending quality of life which enriches all who practice it. Few things reveal the true character of people as much as how they respond to what others do for them.

Most people will do anything possible for those who show appreciation; on the other hand, we have little motivation to help those who do not appreciate us. For the proud, expressing gratitude can be difficult because it means de-emphasizing what they have done and recognizing what others have done for them. Henry Ward Beecher expressed this truth when he wrote, "A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves."

My observation, based on fifty years of working with all kinds of people, has been that big people are humble and grateful. Indeed, one of the benefits of being thankful is that it makes us better persons. The true measure of our lives is how far they reach beyond ourselves. While some people never reach beyond their own self-interest, others reach into infinity.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Herbert Lockyer. *All the Women of the Bible.* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing Company.

Introduction

Where might you go to find some commentary about some of the *heroic* women in the Bible? Herbert Lockyer's extensive commentary not only includes the evil women of history but also saintly women. Part I of this book corner focused upon Jezebel, Eve, Herodias, and Zipporah. Part II give us Abigail, Priscilla, Sarah, and Vashti.

Abigail: The Woman With Beauty and Brains

Lockyer sees Abigail as the "good angel of Nabal's household" (23). Though Abigail experienced difficulties in her own household, she demonstrated both beauty and wisdom in her affairs. When David became an outlaw because of Saul's hatred, he hid in the hills with 600 followers. Though Nabal refused to help David with food, Abigail was wiser. She gathered food for David and his followers, went out to the hills with the food, and fell at the feet of David. Her voice took the anger out of David's heart. Later David when in power as king took Abigail as his wife.

Priscilla: The Woman Who Was Foremost In Service

Priscilla is always paired with her husband Aquila as if they were twin stars. Paul lived in their homes for 18 months, because he loved them and felt comfortable with them.

Priscilla both fashioned and repaired tents made from goat's hair. She became a missionary with her husband and she went to Ephesus and Rome to help Paul.

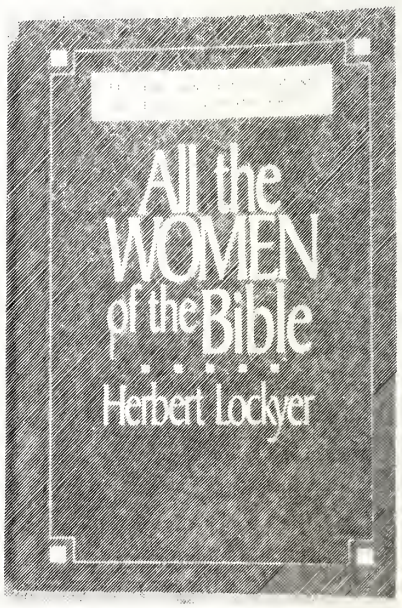
They invited Apollos to their home to help him improve his preaching. With Priscilla's quiet instruction, Apollos grew to be a great preacher (125).

Sarah: The Woman Who Became Mother of Nations

Sarah means "to rule" — an appropriate name for the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac. Paul saw Sarah as the mother of all because bearing Isaac at an old age, "she came to believe in the faithfulness of God" (160).

Lockyer's penchant for British poetry leads him to quote John Keats in describing the beauty of Sarah:

> A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
> Its loveliness increases; it will never
> Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
> A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
> Full of sweet dreams... (157)



Vashti: The Woman Who Exalted Modesty

Vashti, wife of the Persian Ahasuerus or Artaxerxes, refused to show her face or figure to a drunken court. In praise of her heroic refusal, Lockyer says of her: "Rather than lower the white banner of womanly modesty, Vashti accepted disgrace and dismissal" (165).

Conclusion

The saintly and heroic women in the Bible provide examples of spiritual strength for all. Lockyer suggests that "the church owes more than it realizes to the prayers, loyalty, and gifts of its female members" (20).

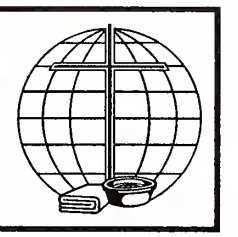
Perhaps Chaucer said it best in the 13th century: "And what is better than a good woman? — Nothing."

***All the Women of the Bible* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson**

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



1997 Annual Session

The eighty-fifth annual session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is now history. The Convention met in Mount Olive, NC on the campus of Mount Olive College, September 16–18. Five-hundred and seventy-seven delegates, ministers, and visitors registered for the session. The number of participants climbed above that level during the Missions Rally on Wednesday evening.

The overall response to the Convention was positive. I noticed that more people actually participated in the entire meeting. Participants stayed involved through the business, worship, and the many reports. I heard a number of comments about the quality of the worship times including both the preaching of the Word and the special music. The reports included in the Report Book were clear and comprehensive, and the various directors and representatives did an excellent job of telling their stories within the time limits assigned. The business was handled in an orderly fashion under the capable leadership of President Ray Wells.

Audio Tapes of all four worship services are available from Doug Skinner for $3.50 each plus shipping and handling. Video Tapes of the Night of Evangelism and the Mission Rally are available from the Convention Office for $10 each. The tapes provide an excellent way to share the worship of the Convention with those that could not attend.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who worked so hard to make the Convention a success. Most people are not aware of all the work that goes into preparing for a Convention. Buddy Sasser, Secretary of the Convention was the program chairman this year. Buddy put in a lot of time with the physical set-up and making sure that everyone was in place for the entire session. He also organized and led the first annual Convention Golf Fellowship. Robert Hadden and the staff of the Free Will Baptist Press worked with me to assure that all the printed materials were ready on time. Karen Vann Norman, Gordon Wall, and the staff of Mount Olive College all went the extra mile to accommodate the needs of the Convention. There were many other individuals that assisted in so many ways. Thanks!

There is additional coverage of the Convention throughout this issue of *The Free Will Baptist*.

Stewardship Teaching Makes a Difference

One of our ministers was inspired by John Maxwell and decided to put what he learned into practice. He pastors a rural church with a membership of 201. During the month of January 1997 he preached a sermon series entitled "Stewardship is Lordship." The table below reflects the changes that the church saw as a result of the pastor's teaching basic stewardship principles. More information about these changes or stewardship materials are available from the Convention office.

Month	1996 Offerings	1997 Offerings	Increase
January	$ 3,969.86	$ 4,716.40	$ 746.45
February	4,161.74	5,977.02	1,815.28
March	5,675.85	9,576.71	3,900.86
April	4,303.15	6,463.69	2,160.54
May	4,512.38	7,444.59	2,932.21
June	4,506.59	7,215.40	2,708.81
July	4,811.05	7,877.00	3,065.95
Total	$31,940.62	$49,270.81	$17,330.19

Convention Update

World Wide Web

Many of you are surfing the net! There are a lot of good things out there. It also stands to reason that there are a lot of dangers as well. In this article I would like to suggest a few sites that you might enjoy looking at the next time out. I also want to remind you that we are planning to develop a site as well. The timing of our site will depend on funding. It would be nice if someone or a business would agree to underwrite the cost of developing and hosting a web page for the Convention. Please contact Scott Sowers at the Convention office if you are interested in helping us reach a new generation.

Here are some suggested places to visit:

http://www.stewardship.org is a site operated by the Christian Stewardship Association. It contains a lot of free information that can be downloaded and used in the local church.

http://www.gospelcom.net is a site that contains information from 82 member organizations including, Art of Family Living, Back to the Bible, Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Gospel Films, The Navigators, and Youth Specialties.

http://www.gospelcom.net.injoy is operated by John Maxwell's organization Injoy. Even though this site is available through the previous listing, it is worth a separate mention.

http://www.gbod.org/default.html is operated by the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church.

http://www.iclnet.org/icl.html is operated by the Institute for Christian Leadership and contains one of the largest and most complete collections of "classical" Christian materials on the Internet.

http://www.cmo.com/cmo is the location of Christian Music Online.

http://user.aol.com/musreview/cmgospel.htm is the location for The Music Review for Christian and Gospel Music.

http://www.rareyroth.com/cggc/default.htm is the site operated by the Church of God General Conference, of Findlay, Ohio.

http://sbcnet.org/index.htm is the official web site for the Southern Baptist Convention.

http://horizon.moc.edu is the address of Mount Olive College's web page.

http://njwebworks.com/churchweb/search.html is a great tool for searching the web for areas of Christian interest.

Reader's Comments

Letters from PO Box 159

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HOMER E. WILLIS, DIRECTOR

September 19, 1997

Dear Brother C.H.,

I enjoyed the September *Free Will Baptist* so much, especially your editorial. I am in my 59th year as a full time minister in the Free Will Bapitst Church and have read the *Free Will Baptist* most of these years.

I was glad to see news about Brother Evans and Ann, Rashie Kennedy, Brother Raper and others whom I have been blessed to know for a long, long time. (I keep up with Bruce Barrow.)

I have always appreciated you, and I was glad when you went back to the Press.

God bless you in your ministry, as He has through the years.

A Brother in Christ,
Homer

Happy Thanksgiving

from the staff at the
Free Will Baptist Press
and
Bible and Bookstores
Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and New Bern

RECRUITMENT AND PREPARATION FOR LEADERSHIP

by Dr. Michael R. Pelt

A major concern of some of us in the Free Will Baptist Church as we face the future is the quality of leadership that will guide the churches during the next generation and beyond. The main responsibility for leading the local congregation falls on the pastor, who must always be engaged in the development of capable leaders among the laity. If we are to have leadership in the pastoral office, then there must be an ongoing program of ministerial recruitment in the denomination at large. This is not an easy task partly because our society today does not place a high value on the ministry. For this reason the ministry is not considered a viable option for the great majority of able young people in our churches, who are more likely to be drawn toward more rewarding or less demanding vocations. Nor do most parents and local churches seem to give much encouragement to their brightest youth to consider the ministry as their life's work. All too often whatever encouragement is forthcoming is offset by the appeal of a tremendous array of vocational choices which promise the good life to those who will prepare themselves.

At this point someone may remind us that Free Will Baptists view the ministry as a special calling. True enough, yet that calling is more likely than not to be mediated through Christian families and churches which nurture young minds, making them aware that their lives are a trust from God and challenging them to consider how they can best use their talents in service to the Kingdom of God. I believe that we can no longer assume that Christian families and churches are fulfilling this responsibility. Some of them need to be made aware that God can work through the teachings and prayers of the church to call laborers to His harvest. Others could benefit from information made available by denominational leaders and assistance from those agencies of the denomination which are most involved in the nurture and education of youth — Cragmont Assembly, the Children's Home, and Mount Olive College.

Just as businesses, government, and other career agencies seek to inform capable young people of the opportunities and benefits of investing their lives in these career fields, so the churches must inform Christian youth as to what they should do with their lives as stewards of the grace of God. If this task of informing them is carried out faithfully and in a spirit of prayer, then some of them will answer the call to ministry either as clergy or as lay leaders. Unless some of the finest youth in our churches are drawn to the ministry, the next generation of Free Will Baptists will be deprived of the quality of leadership which the denomination will most certainly need to fulfill its mission in the world. It is important to remember that in most cases these future leaders are now growing up in our congregations. If we are indifferent about whether or not they hear and acknowledge the call of Christ to discipleship and ministry, then we are failing to meet our responsibility and our churches will suffer because of it.

In order to provide qualified leaders both as ministers and as deacons, one possibility is to give favorable consideration to the ordination of qualified women. Most of the major denominations in America have now approved the ordination of women and increasing numbers of woman are now enrolled in theological seminaries. Indeed, there is precedent for ordaining women in our denomination. The Eastern Conference ordained a woman in 1937 and in the following year she was invited to deliver the convention sermon on the second day of the annual meeting of the North Carolina State

Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership*. The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

Convention. Also, there are now three ordained women who are members of the Piedmont Conference. In most denominations before the twentieth century women were given little opportunity to exercise their gifts as church leaders and this is true also among Free Will Baptists. Observe the absence of references to women in the actions of the conferences as recorded in Harrison and Barfield's **History of Free Will Baptists in North Carolina.** Not until organizations like the Sunday school, the Woman's Auxiliary, and Youth Auxiliaries were initiated in the denomination did we begin to see the importance of women in the life of the churches. These organizations gave to women a voice as well as a channel of blessing to the entire Church.

As one who has been involved in the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Church for the past forty-two years, I have become deeply concerned within the past decade about the lack of enthusiasm among some candidates for the ministry to take seriously their preparation for this calling. There are those who seem unwilling to invest a significant amount of their time, energy, and resources to prepare themselves adequately for leadership in the Church. They are convinced that God has called them to preach but have a very limited view of what is involved in the pastoral office, and they seem to believe that God will equip them for this task once they are ordained. Even more astounding is the fact that this attitude is manifested at a time when there are more opportunities for higher education at all levels than ever before and the level of education among the general population is rising.

At the same time other vocations have upgraded their educational requirements and are emphasizing the need for continuing education in order to keep up with advancing knowledge. Almost all professions have standards or requirements for certification in order to practice those professions. For the ministry that certification is ordination, which in some denominations involves years of preparation. If teachers, for example, must complete a college degree, including certain professional courses, is it too much to expect that ministers should do as much? Is not the work of the minister as important as that of a teacher? Should we not insist on raising the standards of the ministry in regard to the kind and quality of preparation needed for this high calling? As early as 1953 the Central Conference approved the principle of requiring two years of college work for candidates for ordination. Consider how much has changed, both in the churches and in the world, since then; yet our educational requirements have not changed substantially except that they are now stated more specifically in the policies approved at the 1992 session of the conference. Some other conferences have not made even this much progress.

As to the quality of education required for effective ministry, in my opinion it should be obtained at institutions which are accredited by a regional or national agency that is a member of the Council of Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA). This Council is an organization which includes various types of accrediting bodies, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the American Association of Bible Colleges, and the Association of Theological Schools. Such accrediting agencies are established in order to maintain the quality of education provided by institutions of higher education and to assure the general public that colleges and schools which receive such accreditation are held accountable for upholding these standards of quality. Schools which are not members of such bona fide accrediting associations offer no assurance of the quality of their educational programs or of the degrees which are sometimes not worth the paper they are printed on. This has even come to the attention of the UNC Board of Governors, who have expressed concern about these developments and may yet recommend appropriate action.

Back in the 1930s when Eureka College at Ayden had closed its doors and there was no program of education offered anywhere by Free Will Baptists, the Reverend T.B. Mellette opened Zion Bible School at Zion Free Will Baptist Church near Blakely, Georgia. Because Mr. Mellette had earned the respect of his fellow ministers, several young men enrolled at the school, including two of my older brothers who had entered the ministry. The elder of the two was married and had not yet finished high school at the time he enrolled. After two years of study at Zion, he was advised to finish his last year of high school and go on to college in order to prepare himself for a more effective ministry. At the age of twenty-nine, he returned to finish high school. Then he and his wife, now with three children, both enrolled in a teacher's college and eventually completed their degree program after years of hard work and sacrifice at a time when the entire nation was still struggling in the great depression. Now, if the training available in a non-accredited Bible school in the 1930s, in which the principal instructor believed strongly in education for the ministry but also felt that Bible school training alone was not sufficient preparation, how is it possible that we can be satisfied with that type of educational experience as sufficient preparation for the ministry six decades later in the 1990s?

When I finished high school in 1948, it never occurred to me that I shouldn't go to college even though my father was not financially able to send me away to school. After I had completed two years at a local junior college and was ordained at the age of nineteen, I began to think of going to a theological school upon graduation from college. My wife and I were married in 1953 and soon we were making plans to move to Durham where I was to enroll in Duke Divinity School. While attending the Divinity School and for a year afterwards, I served as pastor of churches in eastern North Carolina until I was invited to join the faculty at Mount Olive College in 1957. Six years later I was granted a leave of absence to return to graduate school at Duke in order to better prepare myself to serve as a college professor. By this time my

wife and I had three children and she had completed a degree in elementary education so that she could provide support for the family while I was completing a graduate school degree.

It is because of these personal and family experiences, as well as my convictions concerning the quality of leadership so urgently needed in the denomination in the coming years, that I strongly recommend to candidates for the ministry to enter college and to get the best undergraduate program of study possible. This should include a sound liberal arts curriculum, including religious studies and could include some professional preparation for the ministry. Following graduation from college or as soon as possible, one should enroll in a theological school if it is the desire to equip oneself with the kind of training needed for the most effective ministry possible.

It is not my suggestion that education alone will result in effective ministry. There are other considerations, such as character, commitment to the task, and native ability. But education provides the opportunity for developing the best that God has given us and it enables us to acquire the knowledge and skills which will enrich our lives and our ministry far beyond what we could accomplish without it.

Perhaps it is not simply a matter of requiring more general and professional preparation for the ministry as it is that of creating an *expectation* that those who are called to minister to others must be capable and willing to seek the best preparation possible in order to be effective as pastors or in other capacities as leaders in the denomination. A candidate should not be so anxious about this matter of preparation as to choose the easiest way to satisfy the requirements of the conference so that he can be ordained in order to become pastor of a church. The pastor of a church has an awesome responsibility, and it takes years of preparation and experience to fulfill that responsibility with any degree of satisfaction. The need is great for candidates who have the foresight and patience to see that their years of preparation for the ministry may be some of the most important years of their lives. Such will likely become the kind of leaders who will be sorely needed in the years ahead.

We all know of denominations that have declined because they were not able or willing to make the necessary changes to prosper in a changing world. The Free Will Baptist denomination, like all others, must recognize these changes and try to develop programs and strategies to deal with them. Present leaders including pastors, must be aware of the nature of the society in which the church exists as well as the ways in which the gospel can address the needs of both individuals and society at large. Future leaders of the churches must know how to deal with new situations as well as some problems that have been around for a very long time. If those who become leaders are unprepared or ill equipped to meet such needs, then they will simply be like the blind leading the blind. It is altogether true that the local churches and the entire denomination will never rise above the quality of leadership that is provided by those who will serve as ministers.

Biographical Information

Dr. Michael R. Pelt

Born: December 8, 1930 at Marianna, Fla.

Married: Betty Ethridge Pelt

Children: Cary, Teresa (deceased), Sharon and Julie

Education: B.A. Troy State University; Master of Divinity, Duke University; PhD from Duke University; studied at Cambridge University, England.

Denominational Service: Pastored LaGrange, White Oak Grove; Hull Road, St. Paul. Served interims, Goldsboro 1st and Goldsboro Friends; Board of Ordination Central Conference (10 years).

Ordained: 1950

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DECEMBER 1997

The Free Will Baptist



Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

A Special Time of the Year

It's rather strange that a celebration that takes place year after year is regarded as a very special time each year. But that's the way it is with Christmas.

Last year, when we once again stored the Christmas tree and all the decorations, we breathed a sigh of relief — it was over — until next year. Now, in 1997, we are doing it all over again, and we will do the same thing next year, and the next, and the next...

Why is Christmas such a special time of the year? Why is it that the very attitude of practically everyone changes at this time of the year? Why do smiles grow broader and friendships fonder? We know, of course, that is a special season of the year, a season above all seasons.

Why is this a special season? For the answer, we only have to go back to that day in Bethlehem; there we see the joy and goodwill which came to earth. That same joy and good will has been magnified thousands upon thousands of times since that day in Bethlehem.

On that great night, God's angels admonished the shepherds to have no fear, but to realize that the words spoken were words of joy and happiness. Also, all glory and praise belonged to God the Father. God hasn't changed, but mankind has, so far as his true devotion to Christ; and as a result other things have crowded our hearts, driving out the true spirit of Christmas.

Christmas is a time of love and praise. We should come to love God more because of His great Gift, the Lord Jesus Christ; and we should praise Him for His divine mercy and grace. Is it not true that love for others grows deeper and more meaningful at Christmas? Those bitter and hostile feelings fade away as we once again are reminded that love came down at Christmas. Togetherness with the family reminds us of Christmases past, when we shared our love in tokens of gifts, when we sat together around the table to partake of God's bounty, and when we worshipped together at the annual Christmas pageant and especially when all joined together in the harmonious melody of "Silent Night."

Christmas is also a time of peace and joy. Indeed, this was the message of the angels to the shepherds. We should realize, however, that it was not an automatic peace and joy that was heralded by the angels. Rather, this peace and joy can only be known as souls look to the Prince of Peace for forgiveness and salvation. Thus, it is a personal matter of faith that changes the heart and life. The peace that Jesus offers must be received on an individual basis. We all desire "peace on earth," between the nations and warring factions; but it will not happen apart from a personal surrender to the Lord of all.

There are many things wrong with our Christmas observance today, all having to do with mankind's behavior. Let us, however, focus on the good and blessed truths concerning Christmas. Let's not blame the season, but ourselves for failure to catch the true spirit of this special time of year. May we cherish its true meaning and let us recapture its true significance as revealed in the birth of the Christ Child who came because "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,..." (John 3:16).

The Literature Challenge

On October 23–24, 1997, representatives from The Free Will Baptist Press attended a Denominational Conference, hosted by the David C. Cook Publishing Company in Colorado Springs. Those representing, other than myself, included Cliff Gray - Executive Director, Wallie Hargrove, and Faye Avery. Twenty denominations and publishers were represented. The sessions dealt primarily with the Sunday school curriculum published by Cook, with focus on how they could better serve their customers. Sessions also included "Dealing with Change," "Serving Singles and Generation X," and a session in which we viewed a Cook video on their Elgin, Illinois printing operation. We were introduced to Cook employees and a question-and-answer session followed.

It was a most beneficial opportunity — to see and be made aware of what others are doing regarding the publishing of Sunday school literature. Indeed, we returned with a challenge before us — a challenge to improve, to make changes, to become a greater part of imparting the Word to others. It will not be an overnight process, but it must be done.

We had planned to depart Colorado Springs on Saturday morning; however, the snow storm, or blizzard, prevented us from leaving until Monday, arriving home about 11:00 PM. Two days and two nights were spent, along with about 300 other snow-bound travelers, in the hotel. All was not as bad as it might seem — we were comfortable, with sufficient food, and we had many wonderful opportunities to talk to others, to get to know them and to realize there are many faithful Christian people out there. We wanted to be home earlier, but the Lord was with us, and there is a purpose in everything that happens in our lives — even the Colorado blizzard.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

January is Retirement Ministries Month

December is Foreign Missions Month

Christmas: A Word of Love

Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:15–16).

The fullness of time had come. History had brought together all those factors that prepared the world for the birth of a child in Bethlehem, being of the seed of David. Not just a child, but a special child! This child would be conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a young virgin named Mary.

Into her care and that of Joseph, her husband, would be committed the most precious gift of heaven itself: the Incarnate, Holy, divine Son of God. He would come into the midst of a lost humanity with a special mission — to bring humanity back to the Father and to restore what the first Adam had lost in rebellion against God in the Garden.

It is the ancient witness of holy Scripture and the church that this child, whose name shall be called, JESUS, is none other than the Son of God, enrobed in human flesh, preexistent from eternity, is truly God and truly man. He takes upon Himself the sins of the world as He obediently goes to a cross to undergo the horrors of crucifixion, tasting death for every human being. It is He who comes into the darkness of humanity to be the Light, the Truth, the Way of all who would come to Him in repentance.

His mission and purpose was always before Him in clearest terms: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10), and again is John 10:10, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Only after Pentecost did the disciples fully understand the whole truth about Jesus Christ as they were enlightened and illuminated by the Holy Spirit. Empowered and filled by the Spirit, Peter is found boldly proclaiming Jesus to be the Messiah for whom Israel had so long awaited. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Cut to the heart by the convicting power of Peter's words as they were guided by the Spirit to sinful hearts, men and women cried out in desperation "what shall we do?" as they sought salvation. The eternal Son of God had entered history in a particular place at a particular time to address God's creation and to restore the brokenness of humanity!

He takes upon Himself the sins of the world as He obediently goes to a cross to undergo the horrors of crucifixion, tasting death for every human being. It is He who comes into the darkness of humanity to be the Light, the Truth, the Way of all who would come to Him in repentance.

There was no analogue to the Incarnation in history. It was a fact new and incomparable, outside the realm of ordinary experience and rational knowledge, incapable of historical definition, therefore incomprehensible to all except those to whom it was spiritually revealed by the Spirit in their inward experience of redemption. If they came to believe that God was in Christ, that His life was the "incognito of Deity," that His death had redemptive and eternal significance, that "He arose for our justification," that assurance was given to them from above by the Spirit.

It is ever the same — the heart of the gospel, its mysterium, is never revealed with assurance to the human heart and spirit by rational means, but by the Holy Spirit of God who dwells within and who reveals the eternal, blessed truth about Jesus — that He is the Christ, the Saviour of the world who died for our sins, was buried, raised from the dead, and is alive forever! In His hands are the keys of death and hell and no power can take them away! He is alive forevermore! His name is JESUS, "the Alpha and Omega says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" — King of kings, Lord of lords!

The Word has entered into history! Our world of humanity has a new voice from the very beginning of time itself, and One who

Is There a Christmas Tradition in Your Family Closet? — *by Paul Lewis*

It was a cold, ten-degree Christmas Eve when the Walchushauser family spread a bale of straw on the porch and wiggled into their sleeping bags to spend the night. Huddled together, they discovered that the story of how Jesus first entered the world took on warm new dimensions. The multisensory drama was so vivid that they've slept on the porch every Christmas since.

Several states away, the Simpson children are nervously singing, reciting their poems and presenting "mini-pageants" prepared again for this year's family Christmas gathering.

In yet another home, the Carters return from the annual Christmas cantata at church to light the eight candles surrounding the carved, miniature Nativity scene on their coffee table. As the rising heat from the candles makes the small figures turn on their base, the family joins hands and sings, "Happy birthday, dear Jesus..." The birthday cake is cut and enjoyed in honor of His birth.

Traditions like these are the threads from which our most valued memories are woven — the customs and practices which call us aside from the ordinary routines to focus on someone or something precious to us. Family traditions are enormously important because they help stabilize and hold a family together from year to year and generation to generation. They help children absorb the beliefs and values we want them to enjoy and pass on.

Some family traditions occur more frequently than just the holidays. The Sunday evening dinner menu at the Schaffers' is always cinnamon toast, hot chocolate, and conversation. No one misses it. It's a cherished family tradition, and simple joys like these help keep families stuck tightly together.

A helpful family exercise some evening would be to clear away the dinner dishes, provide paper and pencils, and ask each person to list those activities which he or she regards as traditions in your family. The answers may surprise you and will likely range beyond holiday times to encompass many regular facets of family living.

Once you've pooled your answers, evaluate what you find. Two criteria are: 1) Do these traditions usually involve everyone in the preparing as well as the participating? Those that do will more likely be valued and preserved into the next generation. 2) Does the tradition emphasize authentic spiritual and human values rather than expensive gifts and activities? Traditions worth keeping are usually expensive only in terms of time.

Be sure that several of your family's important traditions include church activities and times with other friends in the Body of Christ. Many traditions can meet the needs of the sick or elderly, missionaries, and single parents and their children.

Family traditions can't be bought no matter how wealthy you are. These treasures are acquired simply, installment by installment, as time passes. The strength of values and the warmth of memories they carry will help you and your descendants through good and bad times. Meaningful family traditions, holiday or otherwise, are worth the effort!

Paul Lewis is the editor of DADS ONLY newsletter and lives with his family in Julian, California.

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Christmas: A Word of Love, Cont.

existed before time was created! The Father has sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Emmanuel is His Name!

Isaac Watts seeks to capture this great truth and revelation in the classic beautiful Christmas carol "Joy to the World! The Lord is come Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns!"

From the very heart of God comes the everlasting song, the message of grace, the word of hope, the Gift of His eternal love. The Gift is given — heaven sends angels to announce the event to humble shepherds, wise men from the east come to worship and bring gifts: a Savior is born in Bethlehem!

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

The CALL to the Word: Eighty-Fifth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists: Part II

by Dr. Pepper Worthington • Writer-In-Residence • Mount Olive College

The 1997 Missions Rally, under the direction of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, began Wednesday night, September 17, with music and a processional. Scouts brought the American flag and the Christian flag to the front. Home Missions has always seen the Scouts as a resource for the growth of the Church. As the Rev. David C. Hansley, director of Home Missions and Evangelism, noted in the Convention report: "The church has become deeply concerned about providing a program under Christian leadership that reaches into a youth's own world to guide his conduct and mold his character as he engages in leisure-time activities. Churches are finding that the Boy Scouts of America offers such a program."



The Scouts led the procession to begin the 1997 Mission Rally.

Welcome, Choruses, Foreign Missions News

Dr. A. Graham Lane, chairman of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, welcomed more than 600 people to the 1997 Missions Rally.

"I would like to stand here fifteen to twenty minutes and look over this wonderful congregation," he declared. "May God bless each of you not only for the rest of the night but for the great and mighty things to be accomplished for His work. Let us celebrate the twenty-five years of home missions and evangelism," he proclaimed.

The Rev. Bryant Hines, pastor of Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC, led the song, "Our God Reigns!" He also led the chorus, "His Name is Wonderful."



Dr. Graham C. Lane

The Rev. Harold Jones, Executive Director of the Board of Foreign Missions, came to the platform. He paused, looked out over the attentive congregation and exclaimed, "What a mighty God we serve! I am reminded what a weak voice I have, but the message of mighty God around the world is strong. I invite you to go by the Foreign Missions display and to take our publication, *Command*, and read our denominational magazine, *The Free Will Baptist*.

Special Recognitions

The Rev. David C. Hansley, Executive Director of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, proceeded to recognize the Boy Scouts of America. He then spoke.

"I want to announce tonight that the first Original Free Will Baptist Spanish Mission Church is established. We have the building for the home mission. The site is the old Methodist Church in Calypso, NC. We need your help to get this building ready for the Spanish mission, called Calypso Chapel Spanish Mission. Come on out and help us. There are overgrown bushes. Snatch them up. There is poison ivy there. Help yourself. Come on the special day we have set aside to work on the grounds and in the

building. This building is worth $48,000 and was donated to the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism by the Rev. Michael Gauker Warning and Dr. Pepper Worthington," he announced.

"The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism has also been given three lots at Sunrise Landing located between Harbinger and Point Harbor, NC, in Currituck County. The land is two miles from Wright Memorial Bridge overlooking Currituck Sound, Kitty Hawk, Southern Shores, and Duck. There is not a mosquito on these lots. The mosquitoes blow over to Manteo to get the people at the outdoor drama. These three lots are a gift of the Julian Gallop family. They are worth $60,000 each or a total of $180,000. The gifts of the building and the three lots total $228,500. Now we have a great work to do for the Lord!" exclaimed Rev. Hansley.

Covenant

The ministry of Covenant is music. Bryant Hines, Holly Everington, and Craig Simmons came forward to sing.

"It is our pleasure and our privilege to stand here and sing for Jesus Christ. The *Covenant* that Holly, Craig, and I have with God is to follow the great commission with our music and testimony. It is our desire to touch people's lives with the positive message of God's love and to make a difference in this world," said Bryant Hines.

And sing they did!

Recently Covenant joined forces with the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism to become an arm of this denominational ministry to spread the joy of Jesus Christ. The program noted that Covenant is available to minister under the auspices of Home Missions and Evangelism through concerts, revivals, evangelistic crusades, and family enrichment programs.

If any Free Will Baptist Church or group is interested in Covenant's doing a musical program or worship, revival, family enrichment, or evangelistic service, please contact Bryant Hines at (919) 633–2683 or PO Box 266, Cove City, NC; or contact the Rev. David C. Hansley at the office of Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

Introduction of Speaker

"Our speaker has been a home missionary and a witness on the home front. He has served in California, helping the H'mongs. The H'mongs came from Laos. They have been a people without a country and a home. Many escaped Laos by boat. They have said to us, 'You didn't come to us, so we will come to you.' And so they have," said the Rev. David C. Hansley.

"Our speaker tonight, Bob Harber, gave up a good church. For fourteen years he served the H'mong in California. He was able to do what he did because his wife had a salary. He would spend his own money to travel. He went all over California. Wherever he was called, he was ready to go. Bob Harber, we want to thank you. Now he is pastor to Sidney Church, Sidney, NC," Rev. Hansley noted.

"Bob's first wife died in a car accident. When Bob made a visit to his childhood home, he met his old girlfriend, Dolly. He married her. She's with him tonight. And her work with her salary kept Bob doing home mission work among the H'mongs. They gave him an honorary doctorate for his humanity. And I challenge our people tonight to get involved with missions on the home front," declared the Rev. Hansley.

Home Missions Rally Message

"Let us look at three passages in Ephesians," began the Rev. Bob Harber.

"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22–23).

"In whom all the building fifty framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:21–22).

From whom the whole body fifty joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).

"I believe the home mission slogan — expanding His kingdom — is an important one. His kingdom we call the church. We are the body of Christ in today's world. We are the Christ that the world sees. When I say church, I don't mean just Original Free Will Baptists. I mean God's kingdom. The church, you see, is an *organism* not *an organization*," he stressed.

Mr. Harber's message served as challenge for change, to adapt to our changing environment. "We don't change our message in the church," he stated. "Changes," he stressed, "have occurred in all areas, even in our rural areas." He also pointed out the



Bryant Hines (left), Holly Everington (center), and Craig Simmons (right) brought the ministry of the Covenant to the Missions Rally on September 17, 1997.

necessity of spontaneous spiritual reproduction in the church. "...a Christian is given the ability to reproduce a born again Christian in the life of others," he declared.



"When you share the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the Love of God with people and they respond, then you have the church," said Dr. Bob Harber, speaker for the 1997 Missions Rally.

(Dr. Harber's entire message is found under the Home Missions section in this issue.)

Offering

The Rev. David C. Hansley announced the amount of the offering for Home Missions and Foreign Missions. A total of $44,272.36 was given. For Home Missions $19,516.00; for Foreign Missions $24,756.36.



The Rev. David C. Hansley announced the total for the offering for both Home and Foreign Missions.

Benediction

The Rev. Scott Sowers closed the 1997 Missions Rally in prayer. "Father, thank you for loving us. Thank you for inviting us to be your children. Thank you for all that you did through another person, someone who spoke to us, explained to us. Father, remind us that the next generation is depending on us to tell them. Forgive us for closing our eyes and ears and for ignoring people who need you. Open our eyes. Open our ears. Open our hearts, for we pray in Christ's name. Amen."

Thursday Session

by C. H. Overman, Editor, Free Will Baptist Press

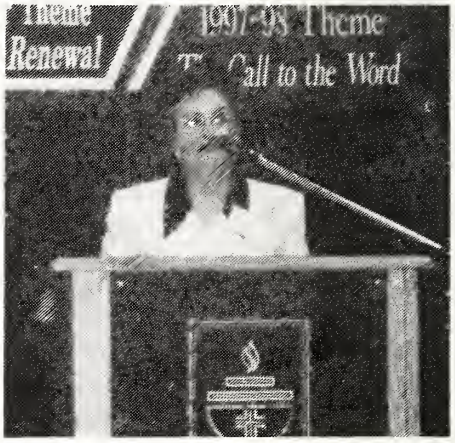
The Thursday morning session began with congregational singing, followed by devotions by Tony Glass, a licensed minister from Free Union Church in Greene County.

Much of the morning session was taken up with reports from the various committees and commissions, as follows:

The Chaplain's Commission, presented by the Rev. Adrian Grubbs. This Commission is charged with the responsibility of providing ecclesiastical endorsement for qualified candidates to the military Chaplaincy and other agents requiring such endorsement. Mr. Grubbs stated: "...since the last Convention, Captain Alan Lamm has submitted his resignation as chaplain in the United States Army Reserve. That leaves us with one chaplain in the National Guard — Lieutenant Colonel Harry Grubbs, who is also a chaplain in the North Carolina Department of Corrections; and one chaplain in the United States Air Force — Captain Mark Hobbs. The Rev. Frank Grubbs is a volunteer chaplain to the Selma Police Department, for which a formal endorsement is required. We are proud of our chaplains and the work they do."

Ministerial Association Report, the Rev. Harold Swinson, President. In this report all ministers were urged to become members of the Association. Mr. Swinson stated: "The Ministerial Association works hard to provide training and fellowship throughout each year. We sponsor the Minister's Conference each summer at Cragmont. Churches are urged to support their minister's attendance at this conference with $200 to cover his expenses. We also have a Mid-Year Banquet for the ministers and wives."

Woman's Auxiliary Convention, Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan, President. Mrs. Jernigan expressed greetings from the Free Will Baptist churches that make up the Auxiliary Convention. She urged a consistent commitment to a deeper spiritual life, and a continual daily witnessing for our Lord and Saviour. Auxiliary gifts to the denominational ministries totaled more than $55,000.00.

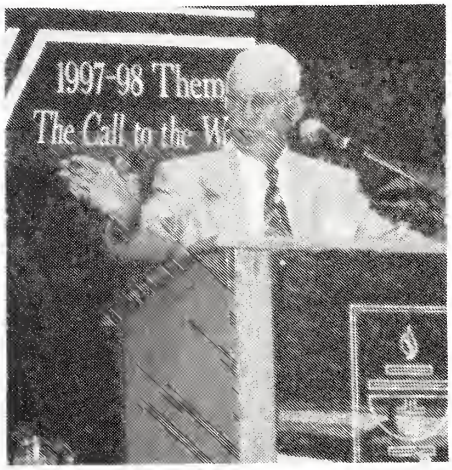


Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan

Carolina Bible Institute, the Rev. Rudy Owens, President. The report stated, "Carolina Bible Institute has labored with determined Commitment to provide conservative Christian training to the Free Will Baptist Church for both laymen and for those preparing for the ministry. We consider it a calling from God and continue to commit all of our resources to this task..."

Camp Vandemere, Mr. Aldric Gaskins, Manager. Camp Vandemere reported seven successful weeks of summer camp. Twenty-five first time decisions were recorded, plus many who rededicated their lives to the Lord. The season ended with a big gospel sing, a day of music, food, fun, and fellowship. Thanks were expressed to all who helped to make 1997 a successful year.

Historical Commission, Dr. Michael Pelt, Chairman. In this report, Dr. Pelt emphasized the importance of preserving the history of Original Free Will Baptists, which has become a function of the Mount Olive College Historical Collection.

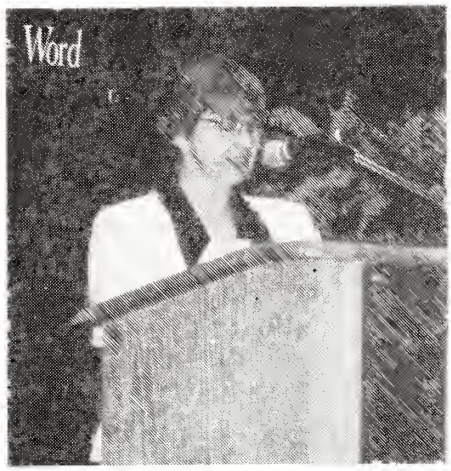


Dr. Michael Pelt

Dr. Pelt stated: "It is clear that more information about our denomination's history is available to us now than at any other time in the past, but unless we are willing to examine it ourselves and learn what it can teach us, we are no better off for having it available to us.... If we do not know our history, we will fail to recognize how vulnerable we have been to various movements that have affected our ministers and churches in such a manner as to weaken and divide us.... A study of our history will enable us to understand who we are as a denomination and to see that we have a goodly heritage, one that is worthy of passing on to this generation and to future generations..."

League Convention, Becky Jo Sumner. "The mission of the Free Will Baptist League is to train each person in the church to be the best they can in Christian service," stated Ms. Sumner. It was noted that the State League Convention meets in conjuction with the state YFA Convention in May; also, the League's state project is Cragmont. All were reminded of the sword drill competition.

Other reports included the Obituary Committee report, the Rev. Everette Harper, Chairman; the Credentials Committee report, the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Chairman; the Resolutions Committee, the Rev. Robert May, Chairman, which was presented after the morning worship service, and was followed by miscellaneous business.



Becky Jo Sumner

The Rev. Earl H. Glenn, pastor of Daniels Chapel Church delivered the morning worship message, entitled, "Ministry of the Word," based upon Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek," and Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."



The Rev. Earl H. Glenn

Mr. Glenn stressed our belief in the Bible as the inspired Word, that it is truly the greatest Book. "God's people need to spend more time reading it," he declared. In discussing the ministry of the Word, he cited 2 Timothy 3:6, which states that it (the Word) is profitable for "...doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Note: Two ministry reports were omitted in Part I of the Convention report in last month's issue of "The Free Will Baptist"; therefore, we are including them in Part II.

Retirement Homes, the Rev. Bruce Dudley, Executive Director. Thanks were expressed on behalf of the Board of Directors, the residents, and Executive Director, for all the prayers and kind thoughts. "...we are pleased that by the Grace of God we are able to report to you that all overdue indebtedness has been paid and all bills are current," reported the Director, and further stated, "The blessing of our Lord has been upon us for the past year, and we cannot thank Him enough. Also, we believe that during the coming year we will be able to begin a new era in Retirement Ministry."

Sunday School Board, Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director. "During the past year," stated Mrs. Dudley, "there has been an outpouring of interest in the cause of Christian nurture in many of our churches. To fulfill the commitment made at the 1996 Convention the Executive Director has had 45 engagements this year.... In March over 400 young people and adults gathered at Mount Olive College for the Spring Institute which focused on Evangelizing through the Sunday school. Mrs. Dudley pointed out that the Sunday school board sponsors two summer camps at Cragmont each summer. She announced that February 22, 1998, will be set aside as Sunday School Day and that the next Sunday School Institute will be held on March 7, 1998.

(It must be noted that the Tuesday night session has not been reported on; therefore, we are planning to cover this event in the next issue of "The Free Will Baptist.")

Camp Vandemere
Our Family Enrichment Center

"That They May See The Light"

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light (Luke 11:33).

The logo for Camp Vandemere is a lighthouse with its beam brightly burning. Inside of the beam is our Scriptural motto taken from Psalm 43:3: "O send out thy light and thy truth." The entire ministry of the Camp is one of "light" in a world filled with darkness and despair. Christ has instructed us to be "the light of the world," and at Camp Vandemere we attempt to live up to this Biblical mandate.

In Luke 11:33 Jesus is not talking about a physical light as much as He is referring to a spiritual light. Yet, spiritual truth can be learned from a physical illustration. There is no way to underestimate the importance of light during a time of darkness. On vacations I have toured caves and mine shafts where the guide would take the tour group into the midst of a cave and turn out all of the lights. The result would be a darkness that is so thick that it seems to literally choke an individual. It seemed a great relief when the lights were finally turned back on. A light is not meant to be hidden but rather to be seen. As you read this article, it is my prayer that the "light which is Camp Vandemere may shine upon your heart and life. Notice the following characteristics of light.

First of all light drives away the darkness. Whenever a light is turned on darkness is driven away. When I was growing up there was a man in my home church that would often sing a song which contained the following lines: "It is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark." what a great truth this is. Jesus knew of this simple truth when He stated that the candle was not to be hidden, but was to be placed upon a candlestick. He knew that when the light was in its proper place the darkness would be driven away.

This is what Camp Vandemere attempts to do. Over the years an untold number of boys and girls have made first-time decisions for Christ at the Camp. By doing so, the darkness of sin has been driven from their soul and the light of God's love has shone in. The Camp is Biblically based, Scripturally sound, and is dedicated to the ministry of the gospel. Anyone who visits the Camp will feel the presence of God's Spirit and will encounter the light of Christ.

A second characteristic of light is that it has the ability to attract or to draw people unto itself. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talked about a "...city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). The idea behind this verse is a traveler who is on the road at night. In Jesus' day there were no street lights or road signs to aid the weary wanderer. But if there were a city nearby, the lights of that city would shine forth and act as a drawing card for the person on his journey. Many a person has been drawn to rest and nourishment by the lights of a city set on a hill.

There is much at Camp Vandemere to draw people to it. The Camp is located on the banks of the Bay River where an uninterrupted view of beauty and splendor await. Fishing, crabbing and boating are only the beginning of the activities that can be enjoyed. The accommodations are both relaxing and affordable. Our Family Lodge is as nice as any motel along the highway and can be rented for a fraction of the price. Within driving distance of the Camp are several seafood restaurants, the historical cities of New Bern and Oriental, and Atlantic Beach is only a ferry ride away. If "peaceful" and "relaxing" are two words that are missing from your vocabulary, then Camp Vandemere is certainly worth your consideration.

A third characteristic of light is that it radiates from a source of power. An oil lamp would produce no light without oil and a wick. The lights in your home would be useless without electricity. A flashlight without batteries would produce no light. Even our sun is a ball of burning gas that will eventually play out. In order for there to be light there must be a source of power.

At Camp Vandemere the source of our light is Christ Himself. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world:..." (John 8:12). He also said, "...without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Our camp manager and his wife, our camp director, our board of directors, and everyone else associated with the Camp are keenly aware of our complete and total dependence upon the grace of God. Our board is made up of Christian men and women who believe in the ministry of Camp Vandemere. Each one is dedicated to developing the Camp according to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is our prayer and our desire to make it everything that it can be for the glory of God. We have been through tough times physically and financially, but God has been faithful to bring us through each hardship with an even

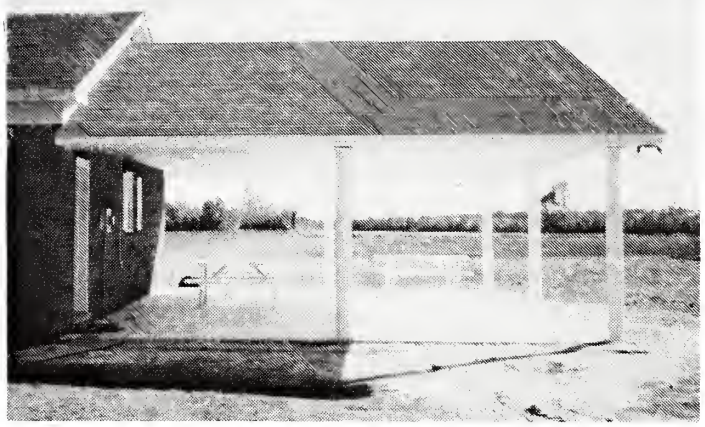
Layman's League News

"What's Happening With Your Church Laymen?

At Free Union Free Will Baptist Church near Walstonburg, the Layman's League started a project to add a large outdoor porch to the side of our Fellowship Building. Thanks to various donations to our building fund and funds collected from Church BBQ's, the project has been completed and paid off. Thanks goes to all who donated to this worthwhile project. A special thanks to Randy Heath and all his construction crew who did this project.

Laymen! This is one example of what Laymen are doing for the Lord. If it is raining during a church function, this addition provides a shelter for cookouts and driving under to let out elderly and getting into the fellowship building without getting wet.

What is your Layman's League doing? Please send me some pictures and a brief write up on projects your Layman's League is doing. Send to: Randall P. Beaman, 3802 Sterling Pointe Drive B–2, Winterville, NC 28590.



New addition to the Fellowship Building at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church (Central Conference) near Walstonburg. Project started by the Free Union Layman's League.

State's Layman's League

Pictured below are some of those who attended the State's Layman's League at Friendship Free Will Baptist Church near Farmville, November 7, 1997.



Dates to Remember

December 1	Central Conference, Layman's League Tarboro Free Will Baptist Church 7:00 PM — Supper 7:45 PM — Business
December 4	Layman's League Board Meeting Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden 7:30 PM

The Layman's League would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Do yourself a favor. Take someone to church Sunday. You will be glad you did!

"That They May See The Light" Cont....

greater determination to mold the Camp into what He would have it to be. Camp Vandemere is dedicated to God and is consecrated to bring praise and glory unto Him. Truly He is the source of all good and perfect gifts, and any light that the Camp is able to produce is done so by His strong and mighty hand.

You are invited to visit Camp Vandemere at your convenience. Our Manger will be able to answer any questions that you may have and members of our board will be glad to assist you in any way that they possible can. In a world full of darkness it is wonderful to know that a place such as Camp Vandemere exists. Come and let its light forever change your life.

Camp Manager:
Mr. Aldric Gaskins
Camp Phone — (919) 745–3171
Home Phone — (919) 637–4949

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
Rev. Owen Arthur
Phone — (919) 633–1185

Donations may be sent to our Treasurer:
Mrs. Judith Kennedy
933 N. NC 41
Pink Hill, NC 27872
Phone — (910) 298–4311

Foreign Missions

P.B.C. Practical Subjects

by Nora Diaz

The Palawan Bible College students and workers in the Philippines are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity He has given them to open a "Practical Work" which is a handknitting through our teacher, the Rev. Fidel Presto. This class started on June 17 with twelve female students. They were all excited and committed to learn new ideas for their personal benefit as well as helping others to learn these skills.

We thank the Lord for this avenue which will help provide a livelihood. Please continue to pray for the constant success of this ministry. To God be the glory!

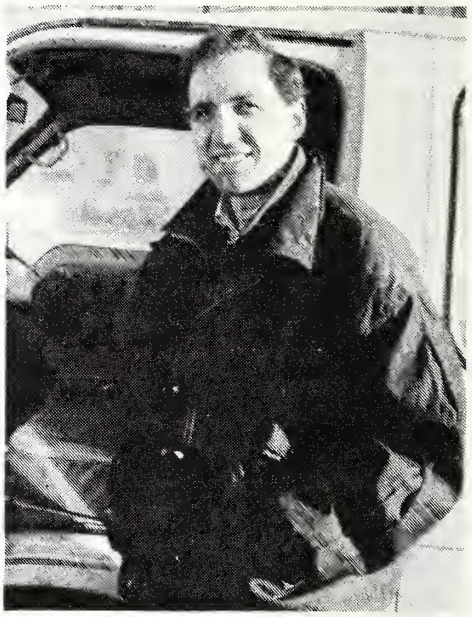




Bible Studies Abroad

—by Janan

Last year one of our co-workers went abroad for more intensive Bible studies. He went there with his wife, three children and some other believers. They traveled to Czechia in an old, red Lada. About one week after his arrival Kostal lost his wallet with all the money and all his documents. For a moment they were in panic, but then they prayed for the Lord's guidance in this problem. After two days there came a man to the Institute where they studied. He had found the money and brought it to the main office. The Lord really was at their side.



Kosta is very happy.

There was no room available for them and they could not find a job to pay for the expenses. Nobody wanted a gypsy family with three children in their house. What to do? To go back home, while the Lord led them to follow this study? No! During the first six weeks they slept in their car with their children. At the end of October the weather became cold and it was almost unbearable to sleep in the car.

The rules of the Institute were kept very strict; no students were allowed to sleep in the building. Everyone was summoned to find work and a place to live. The dean saw their situation and understood the problem. He allowed them to sleep in one of the conference classrooms. There they slept on the cement floor. After another month, in the beginning of December both Kosta and Christine found work, some days later they also found 2 rooms which were for rent and where they were allowed to live.

They made good progress with their studies. Their eldest son, only 12 years old, was a big help because he took care of his sister and the household. His parents made a promise to him: "When we return home you will have a nice bicycle." Kosta and Christina witnessed that this was a big experience to them, that they now understand the life of Abraham much better than ever before. In the summer they all returned safely home. They both had excellent grades for their exams and have taken up their service which they left last September.

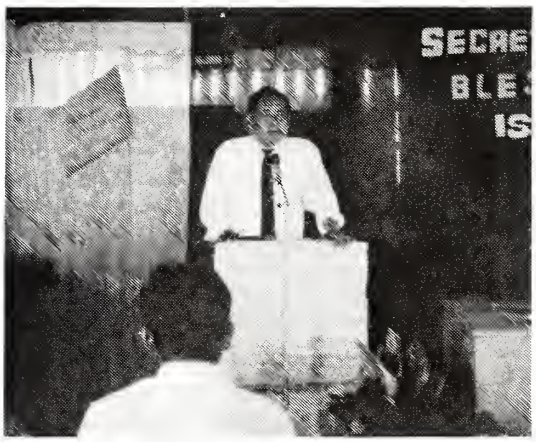
We are very happy to have them again with us. We thank the Lord for all His care and love to them.

December is Foreign Missions Month

Thanksgiving With Sacrifices

(Amos 4:5, Ephesians 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

by the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo



It is easy to give thanks in words especially when one has received something of value. But giving thanks to God, when one is in a sorrowful situation, is not that easy. And yet God Almighty orders us to give sacrifices of thanksgiving (Amos 4:5).

In the Book of Esther 4:16, we can get the meaning of the word "sacrifice" when Esther said to Mordecai, "...fast, ...neither eat nor drink three days...so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."

If Esther's intervention for the sake of the Jews had been a failure,then Mordecai would have been hanged and all the Jews in that Kingdom would have been murdered. Will Paul's statement in Ephesians 5:20 that we give "...thanks always for all things unto God..." and in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you," still be applicable? I believe it is!

Today, we have many good reasons to give thanks even with sacrifices, in a matter of three years of work in this Church, we have been blessed tremendously with eighty-three (83) souls.

Is our sacrifice of bringing souls enough? Has everyone of us helped now in soul winning, even just for one soul in a year, for this particular church?

Every Christian is mandated by Jesus Christ to be a missionary. See Matthew 28:18–20, I know it is not that easy. But if everyone is really a Christian, worthy of His name, then, we have to make sacrifices for the sake of the gospel and share this gospel with our unsaved loved ones, friends, and neighbors.

To show your gratefulness to the Lord, I challenge everyone in this congregation to make sacrifices of thanksgiving by leading more souls into this church and of course, obey the Lord's command to bring our tithes and offerings.

When a person makes sacrifices for the sake of the gospel, his or her faith becomes meaningful.

The Free Will Baptist pastors in the Visayas and Mindanao have learned the value of house-to-house evangelism. Thus, they, have won many souls to Christ in a very short span of time despite very meager finances. But the most wonderful thing of it all is that they are all healthy; their children are sent to school, laughing, enjoying life, and helping their parents in their respective churches.

There is an inner joy in our hearts when we give thanks to the Lord with sacrifices. Most of all, life becomes more meaningful when one serves the Lord sacrificially. Any reader of this article who is only existing and not living a meaningful life, try to serve the Lord with sacrifices. You are welcome to join forces with us in the Philippines.

"After all, there is only one life and it will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last."

(Note: This is a message delivered during the third anniversary of Bulacao Free Will Baptist Church, Cebu City, Philippines.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

December is Foreign Missions Month

The month of December has been designated by the Convention as Foreign Missions Month. During this month, as every month, we encourage churches and individuals to remember this ministry in prayer and to emphasize missions during your worship services. We also ask you to remember Foreign Missions with a special gift this month. These special gifts enable the Board to continue its ministry on behalf of all Free Will Baptist churches to take the Gospel Message to the ends of the earth.

Last Call

This is the last call to join the Short-Term Team to the Philippines on April 17 – May 3, 1998. There is room for two more, but we need to hear from you by December 15. This team will work in a Youth Camp, Vacation Bible School, and be involved with the construction of the church and parsonage in Brooks Point.

If you are interested in this kind of ministry, please call the Board of Foreign Missions today at (919) 746–4963.

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Date:	Sunday, March 1, 1998
Event:	Annual World Missions Conference
Speakers:	Willem and Lydia van der Plas, Missionaries to Eastern Europe
Place:	College Hall, Mount Olive College
Time:	5–8 PM
Schedule:	First Session — 5 PM
	Light Meal — 6 PM (no charge)
	Final Session — 7 PM

Special Note:

Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We, therefore, encourage churches throughout the denomination to call off your Evening Worship Service on March 1 and attend the Mission Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time for fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.

Missions In Mexico

The Commissioning Service for our trip to Mexico was held on July 6, 1997. The Rev. Robert May, our pastor and the deacons of the church gathered in a circle around us, joined hands and prayed for us to be a testimony to the Mexican people, as we were preparing to leave the following Saturday, July 12, 1997 from Raleigh Durham Airport to fly to San Antonio, Texas. The church also gave each one of us a "love gift" to help us with expenses.

A special service was planned for us to share our trip during the morning worship hour on October 12, 1997, at Hickory Chapel Church in Ahoskie. Three members of the "Short Term" mission team, who went to Mexico in July, were given the opportunity to share some of their experiences.

The Adult Choir began this part of the service by singing a most appropriate song, "My House Is Full, But My Fields Are Empty."

Fran Overtan began by relating how she had always had a desire to serve the Lord on a mission field. When the opportunity became available, she prayed and knew the Lord wanted her to go.

Fran shared the details of our trip on a day-to-day activities. She talked about the trip to San Antonio, Texas, and on to Piedras Negras, Mexico. We attended the first church service and ate our first meal with the Mexican people.

She described the Bible School, filled with "excited and eager to learn" children. The Ladies Bible Studies and crafts were shared with such a appreciative and gracious group of ladies.

The Mexican ladies had such pleasure preparing their meals of beans and rice for us.

The doctor and the nurse provided a health clinic. They provided many needs to children, ladies, and men. The hairdresser was available to give haircuts to anyone who wished.

Fran told of the special friendship she had with her roommate on the trip—Ms. Lucy Timmons, a retired Free Will Baptist missionary to the Mexican people. She joined our team in San Antonio, Texas. She was our interpreter, and went with us everywhere. We were unable to order food without this dear lady's assistance. Also the Rev. Edmundo Gonzalez, a Free Will Baptist minister, who speaks Spanish fluently, was our communicator in all kinds of situations. We could not have served in Mexico, had it not been for Ms. Timmons, and the Rev. Gonzalez.

Fran said that this trip was a life-changing experience for her. She will never be the same again. She realizes more than ever just how much the Lord has blessed her.

Fran is the wife of Wayne Overton, mother of two sons and is employed as a computer teacher at Ridgecroft School in Ahoskie.

Billy Dilday was next to speak. He chose to comment on the completion of the new parsonage that was built for the Lily of the Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Piedras Negras.

This construction crew included seven men and two ladies. One was a Spanish teacher who interpreted for the workers and communicated with the Mexican men who assisted the group.

Billy said the crew left early on Monday morning for the construction site. An organized plan was in place when they arrived on the construction site. Each person was assigned to a particular job that they would do. He decided he would be the plumber's helper. The cinder block house was constructed and closed in by the June Short-Term Mission Team. The task of this team was to finish the electric wiring; install the plumbing and bathroom fixture, install the cabinets, finish the mouldings and painting inside and outside the house.



Fran helping with the crafts during VBS in Saltillo.

The team worked together and because of their labor and efforts, the building was completed on Thursday, July 17.

The highlight of this mission was the dedication of the new parsonage for Pastor Esquival, his wife Karla and their 5 children, which was held on Monday, July 21.

This trip could not have been possible without the well organized plans of our Foreign Missions Director Harold Jones and his wife, Sandra. They were so patient, caring and kind to each member on the team.

Billy was so thankful that the Lord allowed him to serve as a member of the July Short-Term Mission Team to Mexico.

Billy is the husband of Anne Dilday, father of one son and employed as an insurance agent with Woodmen of the World.

Anne chose to relate some of the emotional feelings she experienced on this trip to Mexico in July. She began by quoting the following Scripture from Luke 12:48, *NRSV*, which says: "...to whom much has been given, much will be required...."

Mexico field, Mexico, Oh what an impossibility! But my God opened the door, and I walked right in. I entered a world, a culture, a language I didn't understand, a people who look and live so different from me. So many unknowns!

I prayed, planned, became excited, scared, full of wonderment and frightened of the unknown. Yet, I was convinced — my God wanted me to go. For a year, I envisioned such a trip, saved my "Mexico Trip" money, and then I packed. Only one suitcase per person was allowed for the ten-day trip. Somehow, I managed to get mine closed and locked, much to Billy's amazement!

I arrived at the airport in Raleigh, on July 12, 5:15 AM, and met the group. Harold Jones, our Director of Foreign Missions, and his wife, Sandra, along with twenty-five others, who were strangers to me.

I saw expressions of joy, excitement, smiles and anticipation for what lay ahead for this group of people.

When I arrived home, I saw a group

of strangers, that had become my sisters and brothers in Christ, who had become a united team. These people who came from different locations and walks of life included: a retired plumber, a Spanish teacher, a youth director of one of our largest Free Will Baptist churches, a computer teacher, an insurance agent, a general contractor, an accountant, a surgeon, a nurse, a hairdresser, a Free Will Baptist Minister who speaks fluent Spanish, elementary school teachers, and fourteen teenagers, all of whom were willing to share their individual talents. Also, Ms. Lucy Timmons, a retired Free Will Baptist Missionary to the Mexican people joined us in San Antonio, Texas.

I saw this team of Christians become friends and co-workers, as we labored with our hearts, minds, hands, and feet to accomplish the mission set before us.

I saw among this team, lots of joy, laughter, tears, frustrations, sicknesses, compassion, love and happiness, when the task at hand was completed.

I saw a melting together of character and personalities of strangers bonded together by our loving God to become a team with a mission.

I saw in Mexico a land barren of green grass, bushes and trees. So much of the landscape was just dirt and rocks. Now and then a few small trees, scrubs of brown grass, or a cactus standing tall in the middle of almost nothing would be seen.

I saw, during our trip to Saltillo, (a six-hour drive), on a cement road winding through the mountains, a barren land which was so beautiful. This region boasts tall and majestic stone mountains, sporting hues of gray and rose-colored rocks totally devoid of any vegetation. A heavenly blue sky dotted with fluffy, floating clouds seemed to caress the peaks of the tall stone mountains. Completely dry riverbeds made a path down the mountainside carving a ravine for the rains when they come.

My mind could never have imagined a people who seemingly are drowning in the most extreme poverty. The homes are crudely built from scraps of lumber and bricks; the windows have no glass; the doorways are closed by dropping the heavy strips of cloth attached to the top of the door frame.

Yet, I saw a people who are rich in happiness, completely oblivious of the poverty that hovers around them. They were always ready to greet us with a smile.

I saw beautiful brown-skinned children, their black tresses of hair draped around fat and dimpled cheeks. Their big, brown eyes sparkled when we smiled or gave them a hug.

I saw a people who worship my God with so much joy and enthusiasm. They were never in a hurry to finish a church service. The people would sit on extremely hard benches for hours. They sang and sang; clapped their hands, and praised the same God that we serve. They praised the Lord in an orderly fashion. When Scripture was read, or a prayer was spoken, everyone stood with such reverence.

I saw a humble people who were so thankful for anything we shared with them, including our Bible studies. The Bible school program, each craft project, and just our being there was important to each person.

I saw groups of ladies, who appeared to love to cook, so anxious to prepare the meals for us. Their pleasure was so obvious when placing that plate of beans and rice, "some kind of meat," and tortillas in front of me.

I saw a complete mission on Monday morning July 21, the dedication of the newly-built parsonage for a pastor, his wife, and five children. Our construction crew had completed their task. Because of their labors, a cinder block house, with two bedrooms, a living room, with a kitchen area and a bathroom was ready for the family to move in.

I saw the pastor and his family preparing to leave behind a house built with cardboard and scrap lumber, no indoor plumbing, extension cords strung all through each of the three rooms from one source of electricity; water was carried in buckets from an outdoor spigot. To them, this new house seemed like a castle.

I saw a Mexican pastor express sincere gratitude and thankfulness for the fruits of our labors, all made possible because Free Will Baptists gave their money and time to help. Words cannot describe what I saw and felt in my heart during the dedication of the now completed parsonage for Pastor Luis Esquivel, his wife Karla and their five children. As I glanced at the faces of our united team of workers, I saw tears on faces of our teenagers and, yes, older men do weep also.

When Harold Jones presented the parsonage keys to God's servants, to the Mexican people in Piedras Negras, I saw a competed mission, which was accomplished by two short-term mission groups who shared their labors of love during the June and July trips to Mexico this summer.

I saw myself return home, filled with a humble heart and so appreciative of riches that my God has provided for me. The gentle Mexicans abound with a Spiritual happiness and excitement which I long to possess.

Today, I entered my Church, a lovely brick structure; walked ever so quietly on carpeted floors; rested my arthritic back so comfortably on the padded pew, gazed at sunbeams as they filter through the splendor of stained-glass windows, the temperature adjusted just right, and should I need a restroom, I have three to chose from. All of this reminds me that I have so much and they have so little.

Again, a portion of Luke 12:48 bears repeating: "...for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required:..."

I, Anne Dilday, am the wife of Billy Dilday, mother of one son, employed as a hairdresser at Guardian Care Nursing Home in Ahoskie.



Anne cutting a little boys hair in Saltillo.

Expanding His Kingdom — by the Rev. Bob Harber

Ephesians 1:22–23, 2:21–22 and 4:16

This message was delivered at the Annual Missions Rally, September 10, 1997, at Mount Olive College.

The Church is the Body of Christ in today's world. The Church is an organism, not just an organization. With Christ as its head, giving life and direction to the Church, the Church belongs to Christ, (Matthew 16:18) bought and paid for with His Blood.

The word Church engulfs the whole Christian movement in the world. The church was created by Christ for our spiritual life and growth. We also call it the Kingdom of God. Our Home Missions Motto is "Expanding His Kingdom." If we are to expand His kingdom, we must follow the laws of life and growth ordained of God. We can see them in the creation story of Genesis 1 and 2. Let's look at them and see what they are.

I. A Balanced Ecosystem

God first created the sun, moon, planets, stars, and atmosphere and placed them in proper place before he created plants, animals, and man. He keeps them in proper place. He promised Noah after the flood that seed time and harvest would continue until the end of time. We must be very careful about our care of God's created ecosystem.

The ecosystem for the Church is as follows:

1. The Word of God with the gospel of Jesus Christ must be in our minds, hearts, and practiced for the Church to expand.

2. The Spirit of God in our lives gives life and power for expanding His kingdom.

3. The Love of God is to be believed, accepted, and shared to give life to our churches. All missions work begins with God. With God there is no Home or Foreign Missions. He views all the people of the world with the same eye of love. He sent His Son as the first gospel missionary from heaven to earth to save lost mankind. We each are either missionaries or mission fields depending on our response to God's love.



The Rev. Bob Harber and his wife.

4. The fourth ingredient is people, all kinds of people, everywhere. The love of God, expressed from the Word, through the Spirit of God, shared by the people of God with other people who need God will expand His kingdom. When these are in proper place, people are born again. New churches emerge as the plant life did in God's creation. Present churches grow. When these are not in proper place no new churches begin and present churches die. We must allow these to take control of our lives and have dominion of our local and denominational programs — the Word of God, the Spirit of God, the Love of God and people.

II. Environmental Adaptations

God's creation has the ability to adapt to a changing environment. After the sin of Adam and Eve there was a change in plant life. Thorns and thistles began to grow so good plants had to adapt to this new environment to survive. When God sent the flood on the world of Noah's time, after the water receded, new plant life appeared. My wife and I saw this environmental adaptation of God's creation while visiting Yellowstone National Park after the great fire there. We saw millions of new pine seedlings growing.

Change is very evident in our time. On the world scene, maps continue to change with new countries and governments emerging and old ones disappearing. Change is very evident in our own country. At the close of the 1800s, 12% were urban and 88% were rural. Now at the close of the 1900s, 12% are rural and 88% are urban. The people living in the rural areas have an urban lifestyle. Our communities are also changing with people relocating more and more. People change, relocate, and adapt. Often the last place to change in the community is the church.

The Church must adapt to its environmental change. We must change our *methods* not our *message*. The message is Jesus Christ then, now, and always. We cannot successfully share Him with programs designed in the thirties and fifties. It is the nineties. Therefore, we must adapt to the changes around us. Too many "mainline churches" have moved from our inner cities and

left a "gospel vacuum" there. I have been there. I can show you many vacant and near vacant church buildings. Let's change our programs so as to successfully proclaim Christ to our present world with all its needs.

III. Spontaneous Reproduction

Every living thing God created to reproduce, every plant after its kind, every reptile after his kind, also Christians after their kind. He also created churches to reproduce. The church is the Bride of Christ. The Holy Spirit is called "Him." When the church expresses its love for Christ, spiritual children are born. In our relationship with God, we simply reproduce when we express our love for each other (John 13:34).

When living things don't reproduce, something is wrong. When the Church does not reproduce something is wrong. In Arkansas, we had a very useful creature called the "mule." The mule was a cross-breed coming from the mare, a female horse, and a "jack," a male donkey. The mule was a very good work animal, but could not reproduce itself, because it came from an unnatural union. Churches that do not reproduce may very well be "man-manipulated." It just could be that churches that do not reproduce are not led by the Spirit of God.

Sometimes there is no reproduction because we practice "birth control" because the new people in our community "ain't our kind of people." What we need is to love each other with the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Then many new spiritual children could be born in the kingdom of God, and then it expands.

IV. Nurturing Instinct

Each created species provides nurture for its young. The parents provide food and training. The young offspring eat, grow, and learn. The same basic principle applies to the church. The Word of God is our spiritual food. Experiences with God through the Holy Spirit and Christian fellowship are our exercise. The church must develop her instincts for Christian nurturing for our children and our grandchildren to survive and thrive. In our white American culture, we must reach beyond our local church families. In white American statistics indicate each couple produces only 1.6 children. So our only hope to survive is the reach beyond our church walls to expand His kingdom both at home and abroad. It just could be that those new people in our communities were placed there by God for us to share the gospel with. Pastor Mouachow, a H'mong pastor, said to me, "Pastor, you did not come to Laos to teach me, so God brought me here to America for you to teach me."

What God has called us to do emerges out of what God called us to be, Jesus Christ's body in today's world. Let's return to the Biblical principles of life and growth, the love God expressed to all people everywhere, sharing with them the gospel as directed by the Holy Spirit. Adapt to our community's needs. Love people freely. Be willing to accept, train, enlist, and send out the New Converts.

Operation Christmas Cheer

Don Fader, Director

The Christmas season is upon us and all over the world people will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. This is a special time of year and we all look forward to sharing time with family and friends. Part of our joy comes from giving and remembering others with gifts, cards, and the greetings of the season.

It always warms your heart to receive a card or greeting from friends that you have known through the years but no longer see on a regular basis. As time passes our lives change, and we move from one place to another. It is always good to keep in touch with people we have known through the years to let them know that we have not forgotten them and the memories we share are important to us.

Over time the ministers who have faithfully served the congregations of our convention have changed pastorates, and they are no longer an active part of our church family. While many of these men are still working hard in their capacities as pastors, there are some who, because of advancing years or disability, are unable to attend meetings, conferences, and conventions as they did in years past. Because we do not see them as often as before there is a danger that we may forget them and the work they have done.

In an effort to acknowledge these men who have given so much to our people and churches, The Minister's Program instituted the Christian Cheer Program. It was a simple idea to honor our ministers, age 70 and over, at this special time of year by sending them Christmas greetings and a gift of $100. This gift, while sent to them by the Minister's Program, is given on behalf of all the churches in our convention who by their generosity have supported the Program and made this possible.

The responses that we receive are heartwarming. One minister writes to thank you by saying "It means so much to be remembered by my denomination." Another says, "This gift will really come in handy and I sure can use it, thank you."

You make this possible by your support of the Minister's Program. We hope that you will include this Program in your budget and that you and your auxiliary will consider a gift of $100 or more to help us offset the cost of this program. Each year the Minister's Program steps out in faith to make Christmas Cheer a reality because without your support we could not afford the cost. Thank you in advance for all that you do and may all the blessings of this season be yours.

To participate please send your gift to:

The Minister's Program
Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

December

SUN	MON	TUE	
30	**1** 7:00 PM Layman's League, Central Conference, Tarboro FWB Church	**2** Home Missions and Evangelism Board Meeting	**3**
7	**8**	**9** 7:00 PM, Mount Olive College, Christmas Buffet, Murphy Regional Center	**10**
14 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE FINAL EXAMS	**15**	**16**	**17**
21 *Winter Begins*	**22**	**23**	**24** Free Will B M
28	**29**	**30**	**31**

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	THU	FRI	SAT
	4 7:30 PM Layman's League Executive Board	**5** 8:00 PM, Mount Olive College, Fall Concert Choir, Rodgers Chapel	**6** Mount Olive College, Endowment Appreciation Day "Up With People!"
	11	**12** Mount Olive College Classes End	**13**
	MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE FINAL EXAMS		
	18	**19** Mount Olive College Fall Semester Ends	**20** Mount Olive College 11:00 AM, Worship 2:00 PM, Graduation, College Hall
Press Closed osed	**25** Free Will Baptist Press Closed Bible and Bookstores Closed Headquarters Closed MOC Closed *Christmas*	**26** Bible and Bookstores Closed Headquarters Closed MOC Closed	**27**
	1	**2**	**3**

S DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Setting the Tone for Our Cottage

(The following article was written by Mrs. Beth Siders, a Houseparent at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.)

I recently read this saying:

"The place to be happy is here. The time to be happy is now. And the way to be happy is to make others happy."

I posted a cartoon on the bulletin board in the cottage which read: *"Question:* What do you call someone who can make unpopular decisions again and again?" I wrote my own answer... (A houseparent.)

Not everything we do for the young people in our care will make them happy. Often, for their own good, or for the good of the cottage, we must make unpopular decisions. The children will be able to deal with their disappointment without much of a problem if we present it to them in a mature and thoughtful manner. I have found that who we are and what we represent as individuals, spouses, employees, and houseparents will have a much greater and lasting effect on them than any unpopular decision we must make at any given moment.

Who are we? Speaking for myself, I need to laugh at me. Laugh at me where the children can hear. I'm human, and make my share of mistakes. I need to laugh with the children in my care. King Solomon said, "A merry heart does good like a medicine." I know I need to laugh more, long, loud, and hard. Houseparents come in all shapes and sizes, meaning of course, different backgrounds, personalities, and perspectives. It doesn't take us long in child care to realize that we need all the help we can get, grab, or borrow to do a good job servicing those in our care. We learn from other C.C.W.'s (Child Care Workers), through books, in training, and sometimes by trial and error. We learn by calling upon the resources available to us in the wise, merciful, and loving example set down for us and lived by Christ. "The joy of the Lord is our strength."

If we enjoy working with the children we serve, that joy will be evident. Frankly, I wouldn't want to do a job I didn't truly enjoy. But this isn't just about putting food on my own family's table. It's about service and ministry. The greatest of all service and ministry doesn't come from a training manual. We only learn the mechanics there. We must draw from the very soul of our being and bring out the very best in us if we are to make a lasting difference in the lives of children. "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." If we express joy in what we do, do you know who that will be most evident to? The children we serve. We can and do set the tone for our cottages more times than we realize. Even in times of conflict and turmoil, when a child may think they have turned a cottage inside out, it is our responsibility to quickly turn the tone back to the positive and happy.

I'm learning to enjoy the children in my care more these days. It is helpful to maintain a joyful attitude with them. I told them this week in group meeting, "You are the colors of my life. This is what I do and you are the picture I'm painting with my life. Each of you add a color and dimension to me. None of you are of lesser or greater value than the other but each one is important in making a masterpiece." What a look came over their faces! I credit God for giving me the words to express how I felt in such an expressive way. Why use force, if we can lead? So, I'm paying more attention lately to allowing more joy to show through. My enjoyment of who I am in Christ and my joy in the children I serve. Children pick up our moods in a heartbeat (occasionally misreading them.) They will feel safer if they feel the contentment, joy, and peace in my spirit and I know even when I do not speak, I will be heard.



Beth Siders



PRAYER

(This prayer was written by Ron Probst, a Houseparent at the Children's Home.)



Barbara and Ron Probst

Most loving Father, the example of parenthood, you have entrusted these young people to us; to nurture them for you and prepare them for everlasting life. Assist us with your grace, that we may fulfill this sacred duty with competence and love.

Teach us what to give and what to withhold. Show us when to discipline, when to praise, and when to be silent.

Make us gentle and considerate, yet firm, fair, and watchful. Give us the courage to be disliked sometimes by the children, when we must do necessary things, which are displeasing to their eyes. Give us the imagination to enter their world in order to understand and guide them.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Accreditation



Staff members of the Children's Home are hard at work preparing for the Accreditation standards which will be evaluated next June, 1998. Committees are meeting and working continuously to prepare a comprehensive manual that will explain every aspect of the operation of our ministry.

The accreditation process requires an agency to analyze closely all policies, procedures, programs, facilities, safety codes, and administrative functions to ensure each one is functioning at its greatest potential and efficiency.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Mr. Donald Batchelor of the Children's Home is better known as Mr. Don, Mr. Batchelor, or the most famous title, "Batman." He even has his own Bat Mobile that takes him from place to place on the campus.

Mr. Batchelor is the Director of Physical Affairs and has given 20 years of service to the Children's Home. He first came to the home as a Houseparent and later took the position he now holds.



Batman and his Bat Mobile

Everyone on campus depends on Mr. Batchelor and appreciates all the things he does to make sure that everything works and runs properly. If anything goes wrong or breaks down, we call Batman.

For over 20 years, Mr. Batchelor has given guidance, direction, and comfort to hundreds of children who have worked under his supervision while in residence at the Children's Home. He has provided stability to our ministry through his longevity. Mr. Batchelor is often the first person Alumni wish to see when they return to visit our campus.

Mr. Batchelor was recently recognized for his years of service during our Friends of Children's Day celebration. He was supported by his family, friends, staff, children, and Board of Directors of the Home.

Congratulations Mr. Don, and thank you for your service and dedication to a ministry that reaches out to children.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



Christmas Greetings:

To each and every one of you!

From the entire Retirement Homes family.

If you would like to send a Christmas greeting to our residents, their names and addresses are as follows:

Rose Bowen
403–B North Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
Telephone: 919–746–4106

Kaye Jones
403–A North Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
Telephone: 919–746–4563

Natalie Taylor
Post Office Box 225
Coats, NC 27521
Telephone: 910–897–8736

Church Ministries Program in Modular Format to Begin in January

In order to provide relevant education programs in innovative ways, the College will be inaugurating a Church Ministries Program in a modular format beginning in January, 1998. The program is designed for those preparing for the ministry; however, lay persons desiring a deeper understanding of their faith are also welcome.

According to Dr. K. David Hines, chairman of the College's Department of Religion, the program provides the necessary credits for an academic major leading toward a degree. Students who have already earned 60 or more semester hours from other accredited colleges may be eligible to complete their baccalaureate degree through the program.

The program's design is similar to other accelerated programs that the College is offering in business and criminal justice for older students who started college but never finished. Students take 12 courses earning 38 credits in 60 weeks meeting once a week for 4-hour seminars.

According to Dr. Hines, the curriculum concentrates in four areas: the Bible, history, theology, and practice. It focuses on the Bible as the foundation for Christian faith and practice, and it endeavors to translate academic theory into practical ministerial skills. Finally, the program aims to nurture students spiritually as a prerequisite to shepherding others.

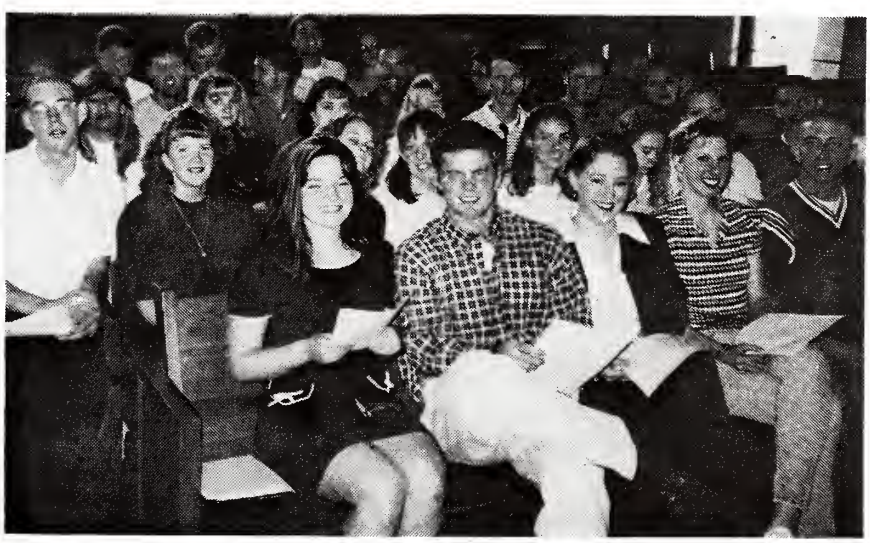
The first semester is 32 weeks long and results in 19 semester hours. The courses, organized as related modules during the first semester, are: the Adult Learner; Life and Teachings of Jesus; Life and Letters of Paul; Hebrew Prophets; History of Christianity; and Systematic Theology.

The second semester is 28 weeks and also results in 19 semester hours. The course modules are: Christian Ethics; World Religions; Sermon Preparation; Church Leadership; Church Growth and Evangelism; and Project in Ministry and Spiritual Formation.

Hines characterizes the program as rigorous and grounded in scholarship.

"The purpose of theological education is not knowledge for knowledge's own sake," Hines said. "Through these studies, we will seek, as Ephesians 4:12 states, 'the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry.' Merged with the concern for academics is our conviction that preparation for ministry involves both an academic and a spiritual dimension."

For information about the Church Ministries program, contact Dr. K. David Hines or the College Admissions Office at 919–658–2502.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Christmas Buffet Set for Tuesday, December 9

The annual Christmas Buffet and Mount Olive Community Ensemble Christmas concert will be in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the Mount Olive campus Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 PM.

Friends of the College from Free Will Baptist churches and the community are invited to this fourth annual event. A very nice buffet dinner will be followed by a festive holiday concert performed by the Mount Olive Community Ensemble. This is a community event, and everyone is welcome.

The Mount Olive Community Ensemble consists of musicians from Mount Olive and throughout the region. The musicians are homemakers, teachers, doctors, students, young, and old, and people in-between from all walks in life who are brought together by a love for music and a desire to perform with others.

Reservations are requested by December 5. The cost is $10 for adults and $6 for children 12 and under. For reservations and information, call the College receptionist at 919–658–2502.

Calendar of Events

Friday, December 5
Fall Choir Concert,
Rodgers Chapel, 8 PM

Tuesday, December 9
Christmas Buffet,
Murphy Regional Center, 7 PM

Saturday, December 20
Worship Service, 11 AM
Graduation, 2 PM, College Hall

Pictured to the left are Free Will Baptist students attending Mount Olive College. Free Will Baptist students are eligible for Free Will Baptist Tuition Grants provided they meet certain requirements. One of the requirements is performing College or church-related service.

College Dinner Campaign Moving Very Successful

As of November 10, the 1997 dinner campaign for Mount Olive College was well above its goal. Of the thirteen dinners held thus far, eleven have exceeded their dinner goal.

Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support and coordinator for the dinners, states, "At this Thanksgiving season we have much to be thankful for at Mount Olive College. Our relationship with the Free Will Baptist Church is invaluable. The love and generous support that has been given to the College by Free Will Baptists has been a very humbling experience this year. We are constantly mindful of our responsibility to warrant the trust of our people.

"We believe that through Mount Olive College we are making a difference in the lives of our students, and through their prayers and gifts, Free Will Baptists share in this difference."

Here are some scenes from the dinners so far this year.



Wayne County (above).



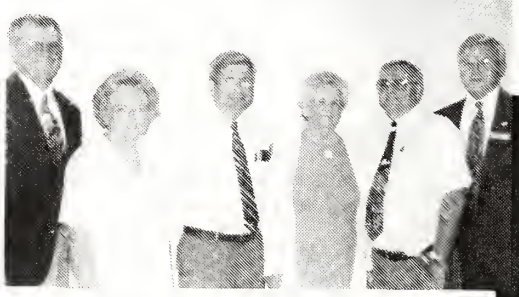
Joshston–Wake Counties (above)

Pamlico County (right).

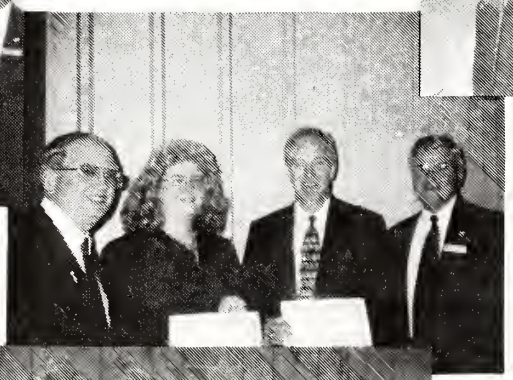




Jones County (above).



Beaufort County (above).



Nash County (left).

Duplin County (below).





Onslow-New Hanover Counties (above).



Greene County (right)

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DENOMINATION

Life Membership Award Presented To: Mrs. Irene Edgerton Rose

Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC

A special part of the Woman's Day Service at Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church was the special recognition given to Mrs. Irene Rose by the Woman's Auxiliary. The following paragraphs were written by Mrs. Esther Mae Barnes, President of the Woman's Auxiliary, as she led the presentation ceremony honoring Mrs. Rose.

"The lady we are honoring today was born and reared in Kenly, NC, except for a brief stay in Princeton, NC. She attended school in Kenly and met her future husband, D. W. Rose, while they were in High School.

"She attended college at Flora McDonald and afterward worked as a dietician at the Sanatorium at McCain in Hoke County. Later, she attended Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, NC. Mrs. Rose did extensive work as a substitute teacher.

"Marrying her high school sweetheart, they had four children; two boys, Charles and Dwight; and two girls, Sarah and Nancy. Her husband was an agri-businessman, operating a store and selling agricultural items. For a time his business took them to Florida where the family lived for about six years.

"When they returned to NC she and her family began attending Little Rock Church and she was very active as a Sunday school teacher and as pianist for the Sunday school and Church. During this time she was active in the community, helping to organize Girl Scouts and working with them for about ten years. She was active in the community school serving as an officer in the PTA.

"Mrs. Rose taught private piano lessons to many children and adults in this area, and she offered free organ lessons to anyone who would learn to play for Church services. She related to her pastor that she 'would not agree to teach lessons to anyone who would not promise to make use of the skills in a public setting.' (All of the persons who now play piano and organ for the Church, studied under Mrs. Rose and one of her former students now teaches private piano and she and her daughter frequently play together for services. Recently, at the Western Conference, Mrs. Rose played for a worship service and for two duet numbers.)

"She has been a longtime member of the Woman's Auxiliary and currently serving as President of Faith Circle. These are just some of the highlights of the life of the lady we are honoring on this special Woman's Day, celebrating Christian Womanhood."



Mrs. Esther Mae Barnes, Woman's Auxiliary President, presents the Life Membership Award to Mrs. Irene Rose (left).

Black Jack Youth and Ladies Raise Money for Foreign Missions

The AFC youth group and the young women's Circle of Faith of Black Jack Original Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC, combined efforts on Saturday, September 13, to raise money for Foreign Missions. The youth helped raise money by holding a free car wash with donations gladly accepted, while the young women raised money by selling baked goods. Their efforts raised $1,025.00 which was presented to the Rev. Harold Jones on September 19. The money will be used to purchase two sewing machines and a laminator for mission workers in the Philippines. These machines will be used to train workers to be tailors and laminators so when they go to the villages to minister, they will be able to support their families.



Justin Page presents a check to the Rev. Harold Jones from the AFC's.



AFC's wash cars for Foreign Missions.

Carteret County Youth Revival

The Carteret County Original Free Will Baptist Youth Revival was held September 20, at Holly Springs Church, Newport, NC. The revival started at 5:00 PM with a cookout. Around 200 hamburgers, 100 hot dogs, and all the trimmings were served. This was followed by outside activities and games. The service began at 7:00 with a record-breaking attendance of 239 people. Tim and David Thompson provided special music. A special evangelistic film entitled "The Crossing" was shown on a big screen TV. Refreshments were served after the service.

The Carteret County Free Will Baptist Youth Rally meets every third Saturday night, starting at 7:00 PM at a different church each month. We invite everyone to come and support the youth. Please call David or Debbie Garner at (919) 223–5677 for a schedule of the churches or for any information.

Cape Fear District Youth Fellowship

submitted by Jeff Lucas

The Cape Fear Youth Fellowship held its monthly meeting at West Clinton Original Free Will Baptist Church, October 4, 1997. The meeting was opened by President Scott Satterfield. After the business session, a wonderful skit was presented by Saint Mary's Grove on "Operation Christmas Child." Everyone was encouraged to participate. Then the program was turned over to the youth of West Clinton Church. They presented "The Amazin' Praise and Worship Quiz." This was enjoyed by all. The Youth were presented questions to answer. If answered incorrectly they had to perform certain tasks. They presented several song selections during the quiz.

Bible Club Award Ceremony

On Sunday, September 28, 1997, the Pioneer Club of Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church, Beulaville, NC, held their second award ceremony. All the children worked hard in Bible Study and various activities to receive their special badges.

The Scooters — Joshua Baker, Emily Meready, and Haley Mercer, received "Jesus Our Special Friend," "Honoring My Family Bible Awads," "Family Helper and Puppets Activity Awards."Gwen Baker is the leader of this group.

The Voyagers — Adam Kennedy, Colbie Southerland and Lesley Miller, received "Honoring My Family and Loving God Bible Awards," "Family Helper and Puppets Activity Awards." Nikita Smith and Laken Futreal received the "Voyager Crest" and "Loving God Bible Award." Sherry Mercer and Lisa Jones are the leaders of this group.

The Trail Blazers — Jordan Meready, Harold Jones, Matthew Houston, received "Honoring My Family and Friendship Bible Awards," "Family Helper," "Puppets," "Friend," "Camp and Craft Activity" Awards. Ore Futrell, Michael Smith, Patrick Kennedy, Justin Futrell, Mirand Lemons, and Jessica Tovar received, "Friendship Bible Awards," "Friend, Camp and Craft Activity Awards." Lisa Southerland and Lisa Futrell are the leaders of this group.

The Challengers — Jerry Futrell, Jr., Jason Tovar, Amanda Huerta, Adam Price, received "Friendship Bible Award" and "Supersitters Activity Award." Ann and Darien Miller are the leaders of this group.

Camp Vandemere It's Not Just A Camp...It's An Experience

Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church members spent the weekend at Camp Vandemere September 12–14. The theme "Take time" was under the direction of the Rev. Ralph Sumner. The group enjoyed fellowship, good singing, excellent worship, and great food. During the weekend retreat many spent their time resting, relaxing, fishing, crabbing, and coming together spiritually. Children and adults alike went to celebrate God through games, classes, music, and just plain fun. There was a lot of excitement in the air at Camp Vandemere. After conclusion of Sunday services, down on the pier by the waterfront, everyone gathered in the dining hall to surprise the Rev. Sumner with a birthday party.

Mrs. Dola Hinson Dudley — *submitted by Ruth L. Warrick*

Funeral Services for Dola Hinson Dudley were held Saturday, October 11, 1997, at Parrish Funeral Home in Selma, NC. Officiating were Dr. Sam Weeks, Pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in Smithfield, where Mrs. Dudley was a member, and the Rev. Jeff Scarborough, a former pastor who serves the First Free Will Baptist Church of Durham. Dr. Burkette Raper, who was unable to attend, sent a tribute.

Mrs. Dudley received the Life Membership Award and the Seal from the State Auxiliary Convention of which she had served as President and Editor of *Devotions*. She served as a Trustee on the Board of Mount Olive College and numerous offices in the Free Will Baptist Denomination. She directed the Woman's Conference at Cragmont for several years.

Mrs. Dudley is survived by a daughter, Judy Gillis and husband Milton of Louisville, KY., a sister, Flora Baggett of Raleigh, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Homecoming at Faith

Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church in Morehead City, NC, celebrated Homecoming, Sunday, October 12, 1997, with forty-seven in attendance. The pastor's wife, Dean Gurganus, decorated the communion table with different kinds of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, to remind us of harvest time and the bountiful blessings and beauties that God has blessed us with.



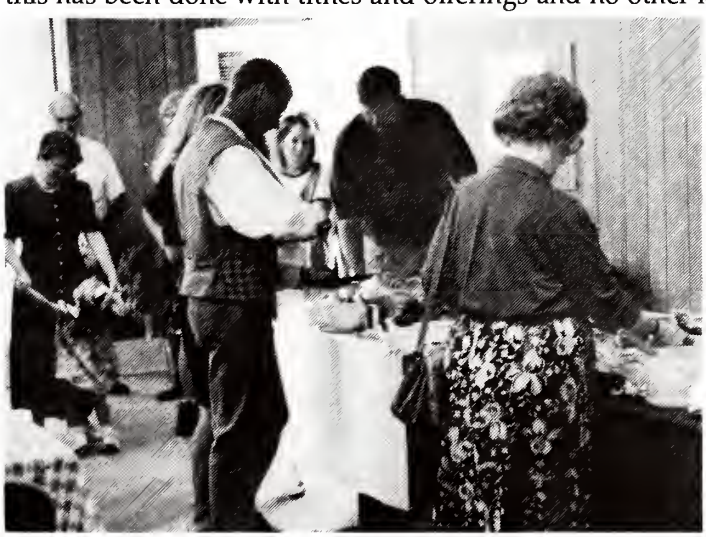
Special music was provided by Mrs. Dean Gurganus singing, "When the Roll Is Called up Yonder," and Pastor James Gurganus singing, "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus."

Pastor Gurganus preached the message from Genesis 3:8–10. The message was entitled "Where Will You Be When God Comes Looking for You?" He encouraged the people to be prepared just as if Jesus were coming to their house for a visit.

Faith Church signed the Harvest Covenant Program with Home Missions in August of 1996. At that time the average attendance was about twelve. Since that time the Rev. Al Markuson has conducted three sessions and a Harvest Survey. The average attendance went up to about thirty, but due to sickness in one of the families it is now running about twenty-five.

During 1997 we have had three new converts, six received by letter, and one member came back and rededicated his life and is a blessing to us with his singing. We lost one member by death, Mr. Willie Lewis. The membership at the beginning of the year was twelve. It is now twenty-one.

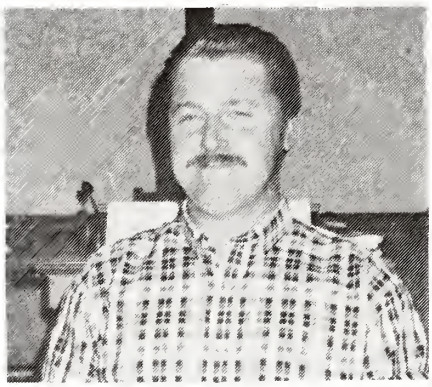
God has blessed us materially this year. At the beginning of the year our treasury was under $5,000.00. We have installed a heat and air-condition system at a cost of over $5,000.00, replaced the shingles on the roof for $5,500.00, replaced an air-conditioner in the fellowship hall for over $700.00, had the church and the education building treated for termites and other pests for over $1,100.00. After all this, our treasury is now over $5,000.00. Mr. Robert Southard, a man who attends but is not a member yet, has painted the outside of the church at no cost. All this has been done with tithes and offerings and no other kinds of fund-raising projects. We cannot praise God enough.



We had set a goal of having an average attendance of fifty by the end of the year, but that is not the most important. We just want to be the people that God wants us to be.

Please pray for us and if you are in this area, come worship with us.

Gregory Clayton Honored at Sidney Free Will Baptist Church



Gregory Clayton

Gregory Clayton was recently honored as the Sunday School Worker of the Year at Sidney Free Will Baptist Church. Gregory, who with his wife Karen and daughters Kerrie, Kayla, and Kasey, live on Savannah Road in the Ransomville community. Gregory has been a life-long member of the church and currently serves as assistant superintendent of Sunday school, treasurer of the Men's Fellowship, a driver for the Van Ministry and fills in wherever and whenever necessary. "There is no one you can count on any better than Gregory Clayton" states Gary Burbage, who presented the award. Sidney runs a full-time Sunday school ministry which starts at 10:00 every Sunday morning. Classes are available from pre-K to adults. Sidney Church is located on Sidney Road and is pastored by the Rev. Bob Harber. Children and adults who would be interested in riding the Sidney Church Van to Sunday school may do so free of charge by calling 964–4402.

Pastor Available

The Rev. James Warren of Kinston, NC announces that he is available for church supply.

Contact
The Rev. James Warren
(919) 527–1648
649 Poplar Street • Kinston, NC 28501

Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary



Charles H. and Dorothy W. Hinnant of Kenly, NC will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception to be held in the Kenly Free Will Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 14, 1997, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Mr. and Mrs. Hinnant were married on December 22, 1937, in Emporia, VA. They joined the Kenly Church during the 1940 Fall Revival with the Rev. Styron of Pine Level being the Evangelist. Mr. and Mrs. Hinnant have three children, all of whom have been baptized in the Kenly Church. Mr. Hinnant has been active in the church over the past years and has served as superintendent of the Sunday school, has taught Sunday school, and has served on the deacon board. Mrs. Hinnant has also been involved in the church with the Woman's Auxiliary and has taught Sunday school. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hinnant, have been in the choir for a number of years and have served the Free Will Baptist Church in many capacities, on different committees and functions. Mr. Hinnant served on the Pastoral Committee when the Rev. James Joyner came to Kenly in 1965.

The public is invited to attend the reception.

Ladies Pow-Wow at Powhatan

by Rita Otto Jones

The Cape Fear Conference Ladies' Auxiliary sponsored a study course at Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, on October 28, 1997. There were several churches represented with over forty women present. Missions was the subject and the message was brought by Sandra Hargis, wife of the Rev. Lloyd Hargis. She handed out an outline and participants read Scripture to go along with her presentation. She used cotton to symbolize the new Christian's life. The old plant died, the seeds dry. When they are planted and cared for, a new plant begins and thrives. Such is the life of a Christian — the old, sinful life must be given up for the new one to begin. Other Christians and the Word of God provide the water, fertilizer, nourishment, and support that is needed for the new Christian to grow and mature. The mission field is not only in far away countries, but right where you live and work. Workers are needed to use what talents they have, whether it's teaching singing, praying, or simply providing a smile or caring shoulder or touch when someone is hurting. She encouraged each woman present to become a "missionary" and spread the gospel of Jesus.

Other news from Powhatan includes two October wedding anniversary celebrations. J. C. Blinson and his wife Joyce celebrated 65 years; Thedford Wood and his wife Pearl celebrated 62 years. Both men have served as deacons at Powhatan and have been "workers in the field" for many years.

Two new deacons were ordained on October 26. Greg Bass and Craig Davis have been working in the church on the building committee and in other capacities for a good while now. They both are willing to help wherever they are needed. Along with Diana and Rhonda (their wives), they stood before the church and were accepted to the new offices.

On Saturday, November 1, the *Four in Christ* visited Powhatan as they have many times over the past years. This time was different because of the loss of Nate Harvey who lost his fight with cancer this past year. He had wanted the group to continue with their ministry in song, though, and everyone present received a blessing.

With the coming New Year, we reflect on the blessing at Powhatan over the past year and look forward with hope to a bright, new year of fellowship. Vicky Bagley, who is continuing her cancer fight, will be celebrating her 41st birthday on December 18. Praise the Lord!

You are invited to attend

The Annual Outdoor Drama

Portraying the Birth of Christ

December 17, 18, 19, 1997

Two performances each night — 7:00 and 8:00, each performance 30 minutes

Sandy Plain Original Free Will Baptist Church

969 NC 241, Pink Hill, North Carolina

(For additional information contact Kevin Jackson, Pastor, 910–298–3936.)

"In Appreciation"

by Bess T. McLamb

The Ayden Original Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, honored their interim pastor, the Rev. Harry Grubbs, with a "Pastor Appreciation Day" on October 26, 1997.

Banners were displayed in the church vestibule, sanctuary, and Fellowship Hall to express their appreciation for all that he has done for them during the last year.

During the morning worship hour, Dale Mills, Deacon, presented a gift from the church to the Rev. Grubbs. Tina Allen, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Overman, read a poem entitled "A Blessing" that she had written just for the occasion. Tina sang "Surely the Presence" as the special music for the day.

After the morning service, a covered-dish dinner was enjoyed by all in the Fellowship Hall. Soon after dinner, and while everyone was fellowshipping with one another, the Rev. Grubbs was surprised with a love offering "Money Tree," and of course this called for a speech from Rev. Grubbs. He assured us that he appreciated all the gifts and fellowship that he had received on this special day.

Doris Grubbs, Rev. Grubbs' wife, was remembered with a gift from the church. It was stated "that behind every man, there is a good woman!"

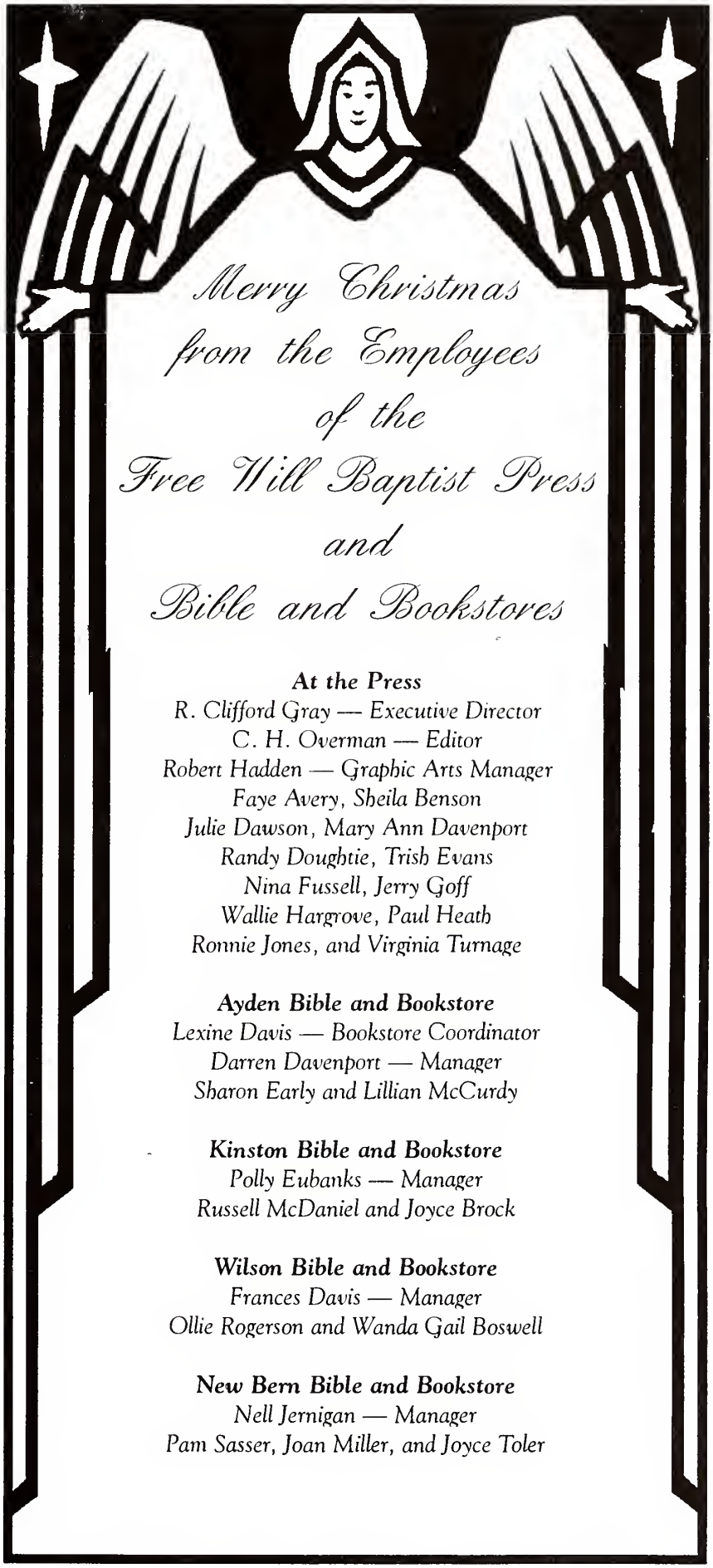
The special surprise guest for the day was Mrs. Lillian Grubbs, Rev. Grubbs' mother. In attendance also, were Rev. Grubbs' son, Jody, Scott, and Jenna Cannon (daughter and son-in-law), and grandson, Hunter.

Everyone enjoyed this "Pastor's Appreciation Day" and everyone in attendance seemed to receive a blessing as well.

Youth Minister Needed

Lee's Chapel is looking for Youth Minister, 15 hours/week paid position.
Contact Phillip Boykin
(910) 892–8360 or (910) 892–7855

Send Resume to Lee's Chapel
Lee's Church Road
Dunn, NC 28334



Attendance Builders: Special Days & Campaigns

OLD-FASHIONED DAY
A time-honored day that is fun and profitable to the church. We remember.

DOUBLE DAY
It makes use of a Bible principle. Many activities presented.

BEATING THE SUMMER SLUMP
Helping you with the age-old problem of a drop in attendance during the summer or vacation months.

INTERNATIONAL DAY
Not a missions day. You will want to have this special day again and again!

FAMILY SUNDAY
Ideas for getting the whole family into church. Many family members of your people do not attend.

CHILDREN'S DAY
Getting the kids and the adults involved together. It makes for a large attendance.

TEEN SUNDAY
Get the teens excited and you really have something going.

PACK-A-PEW SUNDAY
This is as "old as the hills" with some new ideas that make it really work.

PATRIOTIC SUNDAY
Gets people to become American flag wavers. Take advantage of the patriotism in our land.

BIG HEART SUNDAY
Use this if you want to see just how big the hearts of your people really are. A blessed day.

FATHER'S DAY
It can be almost as effective as Mother's Day. It just doesn't cost as much!

EACH ONE REACH ONE SUNDAY
This is the principle on which you and I are to do our soulwinning. An eye opener.

DOUBLE TITHE SUNDAY
It is a good lesson in giving. It will be a blessing to your people.

BUS PARENTS' SUNDAY
It is thrilling to observe the bus children on this day. Parents get saved on this day.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY
You get the grandparents for a big day and you will have the rest of the clan.

BABY DAY
A special day that gets the attention of the total crowd present. Reach the babies and reach the parents.

MUSIC SUNDAY
An enjoyable day that will attract many visitors. It is a blessing.

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY
Attracts senior adults to your church, giving you an opportunity to honor them.

EVERY MEMBER SUNDAY
Will be one of the biggest days of the year, if planned properly.

KINFOLKS SUNDAY
It's surprising to see how many kinfolks the folks in your church have. Getting lost relatives to Christ.

PENTECOST CAMPAIGN
Based on Acts chapter two. A seven weeks campaign. Designed to end in 50 days.

SURPRISE SUNDAY
An exciting day. Eleven surprise elements discussed in the material.

SPACE AGE SUNDAY
Gets everyone involved. Use modern technology for a big day.

BIBLE OLYMPICS
Junior and Senior High attendance campaign. It is tried and proven.

RALLY DAY
An old-fashioned special day that really works. New and different ideas you will want to try.

ROUND-UP SUNDAY
New ideas, not often used. It has been a favorite for years. Try these new approaches.

FAITH CAMPAIGN
A five Sunday campaign that involves the whole church family. It brings lasting results.

APPRECIATION DAY
Builds character as well as attendance. Can be a very emotional day.

FAVORITE SUNDAY
Brings people back to church. A day your people will long remember.

TAXI SUNDAY
Gets car owners involved in bringing others to church. Fun!!

FRIEND DAY
Can be one of the most successful Sundays of the year. More visitors than on any other day. Crowds!!

PLANNING AND OPERATING SPECIAL DAY AND CAMPAIGNS
Procedures for any of the special days and campaigns. Making plans.

REBS & YANKS SUNDAY
Many churches can really get involved in this special day. Leads to success in other campaigns.

ATHLETE SUNDAY
An unusual way to get many new families into the church.

PROFESSIONALS DAY
Almost everyone can be concerned with this special day. Good for your church.

GOOD NEIGHBOR SUNDAY
This special day capitalizes on existing relationships. A most important day!

(From: "The Church Moving Forward Leadership Resources." Booklets are available to assist in planning "Special Days" in your church. Contact the Sunday School Board, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513)

Dr. W. Burkette Raper

President Emeritus
Mount Olive
College

The Golden Years

Joy! The Triumphant Song of Life

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Joy to the World! The Lord is come" (Issac Watts).

Christmas can be the most joyful season of the year or it can be the most depressing. Let us look at what can make the difference.

The Realities of Life

Our bodies require things — food, water, oxygen, protection against extreme temperatures — and a degree of health that can sustain life. Our inner being, however, requires more — a quality of life that includes purpose, faith, hope and love. But there is even a higher requirement for life at its best, and that is joy — the exhilaration which comes from a feeling of supreme well being.

In the book, *Mr. Bridge*, the author describes a hard-working and successful business man who began at the bottom and moved to the top in financial success. A civic-minded person, he and his wife were active in community and social affairs, and in their senior years they traveled to the cultural centers of Europe. Mr. Bridge felt that he had all the ingredients for the good life until he went with his wife to church at Christmas and heard the congregation sing, "Joy to the World." For the first time he realized he had never experienced "joy," (*Mr. Bridge*, by Evan S. Connell, North Point Press, San Francisco, 1969).

Joy is a gift from God to those whose priorities in life give them the capacity to receive it.

Joy is the ultimate and supreme experience of human life. It is not rooted in "things;" it is an experience of our inner spirit which transcends wealth or poverty, health or illness, success or failure, education or social status. Joy is a gift from God to those whose priorities in life give them the capacity to receive it.

George Matheson, who was blind, knew the meaning of joy when in a lonely moment he wrote the hymn, "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go." For more than a century, Christians have found hope and strenght in Matheson's affirmation:

> "O Joy that seeketh me through pain,
> I cannot close my heart to thee;
> I trace the rainbow thro' the rain,
> And feel the promise is not vain
> That morn shall tearless be."

Unconquerable Joy

Joy in the midst of adversity is one of the most pervasive themes of the Bible. Among the most tender words in all literature are the writings of the Prophet Isaiah to his people in exile: "...To comfort all that mourn...to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning..." (Isaiah 61:2–3).

When the angel announced to the shepherds the birth of Jesus, it was within the words: "...I bring you good tidings of great joy..." (Luke 2:10).

In encouraging believers of the first century to retain their faith in times of hardship, the author of Hebrews urged Christians to focus their thoughts on Jesus, "...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross..." (Hebrews 12:2).

Even after being maligned by his fellow Jews and beaten by the Roman authorities, the letter of the Apostle Paul to his friends in Philippi is permeated with references to joy. "I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice," he wrote, (Philippians 1:18 *NIV*). Paul wrote these words, mind you, from a prison cell with chains on his feet!

A careful examination of the Biblical meaning of joy makes it clear that joy does not come from the surface of life but from deep experiences. Joy has its price in self-discipline and in establishing our priorities, but its value far outweights the cost. "The kingdom of heaven," said Jesus, "is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field," (Matthew 13:44 *NIV*).

Joy — A Gift from God

From the Christian perspective, perfect joy comes from what God does in our lives and in our world. Life is not easy; sorrow and pain cannot be avoided; "but your grief will turn to joy," Jesus assured his disciples, "and no one will take away your joy," (John 16:20, 22 *NIV*).

The psalmist expressed the experience of all who make our inner life the sanctuary of God: "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning," (Psalm 30:5).

We cannot always control what happens to us. What someone else gives us, they can take away. But joy is a gift from God, and what God gives us, no one can take from us.

There are times in life when the only thing over which we have control is our inner life—our attitudes, our values, our faith—and it is in this inner sanctuary where God dwells that we experience joy.

The reason we can sing "Joy to the World" is because "the Lord is come," Joy is indeed the triumphant song of life.

1997 (Vol. 3, No. 2) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street. Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

Convention Update

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Resignation

At the October 21, 1997, meeting of the Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, I resigned as Executive Administrator. It has been a real pleasure to work for Original Free Will Baptist over the last two years. I believe that much was accomplished as we worked together to fulfill the mission of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. It is my hope and prayer that the Convention will continue to virgorously pursue its mission.

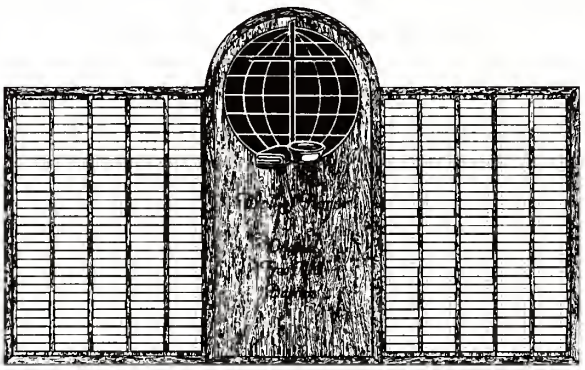
While it was not the only factor involved in my decision, the lack of sufficient financial support for the Convention made it necessary for me to re-evaluate my employment in the office. We worked hard to reduce expenditures while trying to increase the support for the office. Many churches and individuals responded, yet many others continued to support the work at a minimal level or not at all. Support is not enough to offer the services that are needed while maintaining the office at the current level.

I would encourage all Original Free Will Baptists to prayerfully consider supporting the work of the Convention. While administrative work is not popular, it is necessary. The Convention and the Executive Administrator exist to serve Original Free Will Baptists. Churches that are supporting the Convention should consider increasing that support. Those that are not supporting the Convention should take immediate steps to provide some financial support! Above all, I would encourage each of you to remember the Convention in your prayers.

Scott Sowers

Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists

A Gift that lives...



The Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists is a gift that lives. The Wall of Honor will remind us of our rich heritage and present joy of serving Christ through the Original Free Will Baptists.

The Wall of Honor will be located at the Headquarters of our Denomination.

The Wall of Honor is for any Free Will Baptist (Pastor, Ministry Director, Denominational Leaders, Local Church Leaders, and all Laity). For someone to be Honored there must be a gift of $500.00 per person or couple being honored. A plaque with the name of the person being honored and the name of the giver will be placed on the Wall of Honor. Also a special presentation of recognition will be made to the person being honored or his/her family.

...and grows

The gifts received from the Wall of Honor will be used in the following ways: $250.00 will go into the "Wall of Honor Endowment" and $250.00 will go into the general funds of the Convention. The Wall of Honor gifts become gifts that help the present, assures the Convention of a ministry in the future, and becomes a lasting tribute to that person honored.

My Gift

Gift is in Memory/Honor (circle one) of:

Name _____

~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Your Name _____

Address _____

_____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Please send acknowledgment of this gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

_____

~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Date _____

~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Mail to:

Headquarters of Original FWB Churches

Box 39

Ayden, North Carolina 28513

"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good,..." Romans 2:10.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Donald K. Berry. *An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament.* Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Introduction

What exactly *is* the wisdom literature? Donald K. Berry, assistant professor of religion at the University of Mobile, highlights three books of the Bible as wisdom literature: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. He also discusses how the wisdom literature influenced Augustine (354–430) Athanasius (296–373), Ambrose (339–397), Jerome (342–420) and others. In a brief section he gives us the influence of wisdom literature upon the writers of the Reformation Period (1450–1550). He includes Erasmus (1469–1539), Zwingli (1484–1531), Luther (1483–1546), and others.

Aware that wisdom literature has a broader base than three books, Dr. Berry gives acknowledgment to specific wisdom passages in Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, the Psalms, and other books.

Wisdom Literature: Job

How does Job reflect wisdom? Dr. Berry insists, "Job serves as the best example of our first unwieldy definition of wisdom — *the exercise of mind as a religious pursuit* (12). The format of Job is a series of "debate-style speeches" which ultimately leaves us with no answer. Job discovers an acceptance "that good and evil sometimes come without identifiable cause" (21). God's sovereignty rules; man's ability to control diminishes.

Speeches in Job

The prose prologue and epilogue place Job in a historical context. God willingly tests Job. Job's three friends give speeches that reflect traditional thought. *Eliphaz* accuses Job of being a sinner because Job uses blasphemous talk. *Bildad* tells Job that only the wicked suffer. *Zophar* implies that Job's suffering "will be shown to be deserved in the end" (149). Job's three friends, therefore, become "miserable comforters" (Job 16:2).

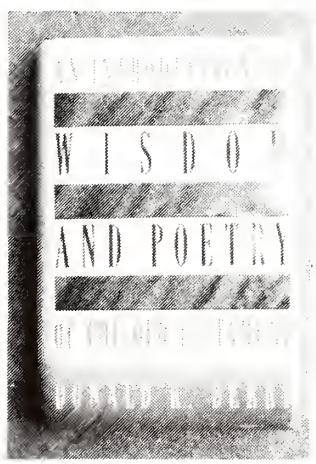
Hymn to Wisdom

In Job 28, the unique hymn to wisdom appears. What is the nature of wisdom? Dr. Berry notes: "The hymn presents the basic premise that wisdom resides with God, remaining mysterious and somewhat inaccessible to humans" (150). Though the search for wisdom includes the exploration of nature, beauty, and mystery, the quest fails to identify wisdom within the scope of human inquiry.

An Answer That Is No Answer

If reason cannot deliver wisdom, what can? Job learns that the access to wisdom is only "by relationship to God" (150). After all, what is man's knowledge? Can man create mountains or winds? No.

Job then confronts a crisis in his own faith. Fairness in human terms is not the issue. Instead, Job must release himself from his theology in order to open himself to personal revelation. Only as Job relates to God and experiences God's presence can he gain that "elusive quality — wisdom" (153).



Conclusion

Does man have the justify God's way? What is true wisdom? Is it resignation to uncertainty? Is it an unquestionable acceptance of the randomness of human fortunes?

Job's shift from rational theology to personal revelation leads to the answer that is no answer, because an answer presupposes clarity, reason. Instead, Job leads us towards a new wisdom — the wisdom of revelation. Within the experience of God's presence, Job may experience *humility, patience,* and *hope.*

***An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson**

WHAT CHURCHES WANT IN A PASTOR

by Lynette Sumerlin

Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership.* The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

Selecting a pastor is an awesome task for the laity of the church, a responsibility usually placed mainly upon the shoulders of a pulpit committee who, having been made aware of the desires of the church body, go in search of the *perfect* pastor. What qualities do we as members desire pastors to possess? First, we expect them to be certain of their calling. They must know in their hearts that they have been called by God to preach the gospel. Without this certainty, they would view their position as merely an occupation and would find their role as spiritual leader of the church ineffective.

Second, we desire pastors who will visit the sick, the shut-ins, and the elderly. Experiencing the heartfelt appreciation and encouragement these people express usually provides enough incentive for pastors to make return visits on a regular basis. Third, we want pastors, who exhibit qualities of leadership. They do not have to be able to direct the choir, play the piano or organ, or sing solos, but they should be able to direct the church in promoting spiritual growth, setting goals, supporting denominational ministries, and conducting the business of the church.

Fourth, we want pastors who communicate effectively with all age levels. The ability to build a good rapport with people from the youngest to the oldest requires a genuine love for people and a real desire to help fill their needs. Also, very helpful in dealing effectively with all ages is a good education. While some people feel that a college education is not necessary, most believe it is certainly not a hindrance. Rather, a good education enhances what may already be a good ministry. Especially important is the training it provides in delivering more effective sermons and in counseling individual members. Education can only make a good ministry better.

Finally, we want pastors who while *stepping on our toes,* always direct our attention to the only all-faithful source of hope. They rejoice in our accomplishments but do not become complacent. Rather pastors always search for a more effective way to help our church grow spiritually and to win lost souls to Christ. Now, you've probably thinking "that's a tall order!" Indeed! But God's work deserves the best.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Lynette Sumerlin

Member: Palmer Memorial OFWB Church, Garner, North Carolina. Church Clerk. Local Church Woman's Auxiliary Officer.

Husband: Jerry Sumerlin

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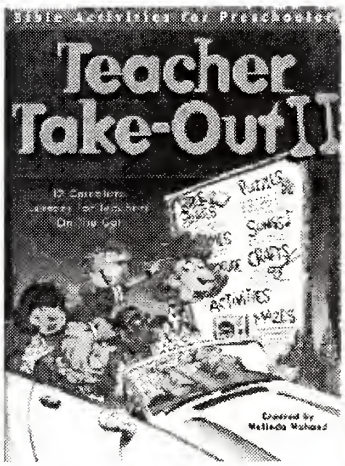
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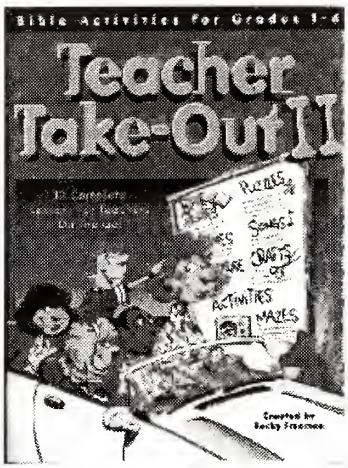
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